Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-078 *22 April 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Radio Havana: Castro Receives Mexican Visitors *[Havana Radio]* 1
GRANMA Confronts Rumors of Castro Illness *[Madrid EFE]* 1
Raul Castro, Rosales del Toro Close Army Meeting *[Havana TV]* 1
Alarcon Attends Matanzas Provincial Assembly *[Havana Radio]* 2
Alarcon Discusses ANPP Session With Deputies *[Havana TV]* 2
Court Sentences Rights Committee Member *[Havana Radio]* 2
Coastal Region Building Regulations Issued *[Havana Radio]* 3
Crombet Speaks to Ciego de Avila Deputies *[Havana Radio]* 3
Lage Comments on Emigre Conference, Dialogue *[Havana Radio]* 4
Robaina: South American Tour 'Very Positive' *[Havana TV]* 4
High-Ranking French Labor Leader Arrives *[Havana Radio]* 4
Delegate: Small-Island Teamwork Imperative *[Havana Radio]* 5

Haiti

Aristide Calls U.S. Policy 'Cynical Joke' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Warns To Expect 'Flood' of Refugees *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Senators Pledge To Institute 'Clean Sweep' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
'Clean Sweep' Seen as 'Breach of Democracy' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Antoine Joseph Favors Talks Over 'Clean Sweep' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Constitutionalist Bloc Works on Amnesty Law *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6

MEXICO

Zedillo Pays 'Surprise Visit' to Chiapas *[Mexico City Radio]* 7
Camacho Expects EZLN Statement on Talks Resumption *[NOTIMEX]* 7
Camacho Resignation Story Causes Stir *[Mexico City Radio]* 8
Defense Secretariat Denies Human Rights Violations *[Mexico City Radio]* 9
Salinas, Chiapas Ranchers Discuss Land Problems *[Mexico City TV]* 10

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Roundup of Electoral Developments *[San Salvador TV, etc.]* 11

Honduras

President To Declare State of Emergency Over Energy Crisis *[NOTIMEX]* 11
Presidential Decree on Energy Crisis *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 11
U.S. Support for UN Council Bid Reported *[NOTIMEX]* 12

Nicaragua

Lacayo, Ministers Explain ESAF Consequences *[BARRICADA 19 Apr]* 12
Demobilized Fighters Block Entrances to Quilali *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 21 Apr]* 13
Daniel Ortega Letter to FSLN Members *[BARRICADA 14 Apr]* 13

Panama

Poll Shows PRD Candidate Leading Field *[LA PRENSA 21 Apr]* 15
Roundup of Electoral Developments *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 17 Apr, etc.]* 15

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Chamber of Deputies, EEC Ratify Fishing Accord *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 17
Falkland Islanders Accept Minefield Proposal *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 17
Argentine Ambassador to UK Views Falklands *[LA PRENSA 21 Apr]* 17
Cavallo Reviews Measures To Be Announced by Menem *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 18
Roundup of Economic Reports *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 18

Bolivia

Foreign Minister Attending Rio Group Meeting *[La Paz TV]* 19
Foreign Minister Aranibar Ends Visit to Belgium *[Madrid EFE]* 19
Committee Questions Former Antinarcotics Chief *[La Paz TV]* 19
Popular Participation Law Annoys Labor Federation *[La Paz TV]* 20
Roundup of Economic Reports *[LA RAZON 7 Apr, etc.]* 21

Brazil

Franco Expresses Interest in Joining NAFTA *[GAZETA MERCANTIL 19 Apr]* 21
Uruguayan Official Warns Against Trade Barriers *[Madrid EFE]* 22
Ecuador's Paredes Arrives for Rio Group *[Madrid EFE]* 23
Angolan President Arrives in Salvador *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Apr]* 23
Drug-Numbers Game Link Confirmed in 1982 Report *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 24
Another Deputy Stripped of Political Rights *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 20 Apr]* 24
Editorial Views Political Parties' 'Crisis' *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 16 Apr]* 24
Industrial Property Bill Includes Changes *[GAZETA MERCANTIL 19 Apr]* 25

Chile

Czech Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[Madrid EFE]* 25
Roundup of Economic Reports *[ESTRATEGIA 31 Mar, etc.]* 26

Peru

Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina Interviewed *[LA REPUBLICA 11 Apr]* 26
Two Cooperation Agreements Signed *[EL COMERCIO 12 Apr]* 28
Lima Mayor Declares Fujimori 'Persona Non Grata' *[Madrid EFE]* 28
Opposition: Antiterrorist Offensive Harms Civilians *[Madrid EFE]* 28

Uruguay

Roundup of Economic Reports *[EL PAIS 9 Apr, etc.]* 29
Correction to Cuban Foreign Minister Interviewed 29

Cuba

Radio Havana: Castro Receives Mexican Visitors

PA2104140594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has met with Fausto Alzati, director general of the Mexican National Council for Science and Technology [Conacyt], in Havana. Alzati traveled to the Cuban capital to sign an important cooperation agreement with Cuba's State Committee for Economic Cooperation—CECE. Topics related to the development of relations between Mexico and Cuba in the fields of science and technology were reviewed at the meeting.

Conacyt Deputy Director Alberto Ruiz Moncayo and Sergio Tovar, scientific attache of the Mexican Embassy in Havana, also attended the meeting with President Fidel Castro. Carlos Lage, secretary of the Council of Ministers, and CECE President Ernesto Melendez participated on the Cuban side.

GRANMA Confronts Rumors of Castro Illness

PA2104162694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1431 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Havana, 21 Apr (EFE)—The official GRANMA newspaper today responded to rumors of a Fidel Castro illness in a brief note stating that the Cuban leader on Tuesday met with Mexican Fausto Alzati, director general of the National Council for Science and Technology (Conacyt).

A diplomat of the Mexican Embassy in Cuba who attended the meeting told EFE that he saw Castro "in perfect condition, as always. He even cracked jokes."

Sergio Tobar, scientific attache of the Mexican diplomatic mission, added that the meeting took place at the office of the Cuban leader and lasted about one hour.

The source said Castro and Alzati later went to the Mexican ambassador's residence in Havana to attend a reception, at which Castro stayed for 30 minutes.

This is the first time, since 2 April, that GRANMA has reported on an activity involving Castro, while the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry yesterday denied he suffered a heart attack or a stroke.

A spokesman for the Foreign Relations Ministry said that Castro "is not scheduled" to attend the Conference on the Nation and Emigration, which will start tomorrow, but Castro will attend a special session of the National Assembly on 1 May.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1518 GMT carries a related 250-word Havana-datelined report quoting Sergio Tobar as stating Cuban President Fidel Castro is "in a perfect state of health," adding that "we saw him and he looked as usual, very spirited; he may have the flu [gripe]." The report adds that Castro later attended a cocktail party at the Mexican ambassador's residence, where he chatted with guests for 20 minutes.]

Raul Castro, Rosales del Toro Close Army Meeting

FL2104163594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] With warm congratulations to Eastern Army troops, Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], said farewell to the participants in the Eastern Army Special Military Council.

Raul presented an enlarged picture of Eastern Army Chief Ramon Espinosa Martin, in which both men are standing in front of a billboard reading: This command is top notch. Raul affirmed that this gift marks the 33rd anniversary of the creation of the Eastern Army, and described as masterful the demonstrations he attended.

The closing address by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, member of the Politburo and chief of the FAR General Staff, stressed that the council's accomplishments are part of a program which foresaw the current situation much earlier than other institutions. He pointed out that the key has been the implementation of a complete concept were every FAR Ministry member has specific responsibilities, from the minister to the soldier.

In its final phase, the council listened to addresses by the first secretaries of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, and Holguin Provinces, regarding the energy potential of these regions. The PCC officials stressed efforts and results of the work to increase, among other things, the use of bagasse and shaft, the construction of minidams and windmills, and conservation of traditional fuels.

Central Committee member Eugenio Mainegra gave a special address to the council on the status of the nationwide efforts to solve difficulties in alternative energy sources efforts. Earlier, the FAR minister's work group and the members of the military council visited the Limoncito hydraulic complex designed to irrigate plantain plantations by gravity. The project, with a capacity of 7.14 million cubic meters, supplies water to 33 plantain caballerias planted on planters in order to enrich the organic layers of the soil and improve drainage. Limoncito is a landmark for Holguin construction workers who in 10 months in 1992 completed the main reservoir, a flow regulating facility, and over four kilometers of the channel.

The military visitors also inaugurated an experimental facility for processing agricultural residues such as sugarcane shaft which is shaped into compact briquettes. Once the facility reaches its top production capacity it will produce over 4,000 metric tons of briquettes a year, which will replace 1,440 tons of oil or prevent having to cut down 174 hectares of forest. At his site, coal and

phenolic acids are obtained simultaneously. These are used to produce heavy oils such as creosol, guaiacum, emollients, and solvents.

During a visit to a repair workshop, the two work groups observed procedures to make tires for light vehicles with methods developed in that workshop—a vanguard unit of the FAR Civilian Workers Union. According to technical tests the final product's quality is superior to imports and lays a basis for the budding production of tires for heavy vehicles.

Great prowess has been demonstrated by the mini-industries of the General Staff of the Eastern Army, which have produced so far this year, 21 tons of food including candied preserves, tomato and other vegetables pastes, candy, and cassava. In the other 51 facilities of this type in the Eastern Army the production extends to detergents, lotions made from citrus extracts, liquid and bar soap, and shoe polish and dye.

Before the closing of the council, there was a praiseworthy cooking demonstration including 160 recipes for cooking fresh water fish grown in dozens of army units. The things seen in the extensive tour evidence how much is being done by the Eastern Army to overcome the effects of the special period and contribute to the FAR and to Cuba's development.

Raul was right when he affirmed in his farewell that it will be difficult to take away from the Eastern Army the title of best in the FAR.

Alarcon Attends Matanzas Provincial Assembly

FL2204012594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] During the provincial meeting to summarize the workers parliaments in Matanzas Province, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, stated that only the people can work economic miracles. Alarcon stated that no law can accomplish the miracles that the people can with their resistance and popular struggle toward the established objectives, and predicted that practice will show how the Cuban people are capable of overcoming this difficult period.

The attendants at the meeting learned about the main measures presented by the workers of Matanzas Province, which include the reorganization of the domestic economy, profitability of the industrial sector, elimination of inappropriate subsidies, and generalized efficiency.

Alarcon Discusses ANPP Session With Deputies

FL2104152894 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has met with deputies from Cienfuegos to discuss aspects of the 1 May special session of the ANPP. In addition to the deputies, the members of the Administrative Councils, and the presidents of the municipal assemblies, permanent committees, and urban People's Councils, were also in attendance. The discussion was based on the document debated at the last plenum of the Cuban Workers Federation, which conduted a preliminary assessment of the workers assemblies process. The participants in the meeting expressed opinions based on experiences attained during this same process.

[Begin Alarcon recording] It has been a very broad debate nationwide. The deputies have participated in many meetings. Each one of us attended thousands of hours to discuss these same issues, specifically based on the reality of each region. [end recording]

These experiences are included in the proposals the ANPP will discuss in order to adopt measures aimed at streamlining the national finances. At the meeting, it was stressed how the workers assemblies, as a first effort to tackle economic efficiency at every workplace, have opened a path to face the current situation.

It is now our deputies' duty to focus on the second phase of this process having to do with the deteriorated Cuban financial situation. The 1 May special session of the ANPP ought to contribute to define opinions and lay down norms and guidelines to steer the economic policy of the Cuban state.

Court Sentences Rights Committee Member

PA2104171894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by Marianela Samper from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Havana City People's Provincial Court sentenced Rodolfo Gonzalez Gonzalez to seven years in prison for the offense of spreading enemy propaganda. Gonzalez, age 34, a member of the outlawed Cuban Human Rights Committee, admitted he cooperated with counterrevolutionary radio stations based in the United States. (Edelmira Pedriz) was the prosecutor of case No. 49 of 1993 and now gives us details on the legal substantiation of the case.

[Begin recording] [Pedriz] The paragraphs of Article 103 of the Penal Code, through Paragraph 3, describe the offense of enemy propaganda. To be specific, the charge against Rodolfo Gonzalez is contained in Paragraph 2 of Article 103. It notes that a person who spreads false news or ill-intended predictions for the purpose of causing alarm or public unrest is liable to receive one to four years in prison. Paragraph 3 mentions a specific aggravating factor for this offense. It notes that if the mass media are used in carrying out the actions mentioned in the above paragraphs the prison term ranges from seven to 15 years. What happened in this case? Everything that was said—even the defendant said it during the hearing

and the defense lawyer, who was tasked with representing the interests of Gonzalez in accordance with what our Constitution and law dictate, corroborated it.... [pauses] During the trial, the argument against the charge was that Rodolfo Gonzalez committed no offense because he did nothing but make use of his sacred right to express his ideas freely, the right of freedom of opinion, the freedom to express ideas and beliefs. The constitutionality of the charge was questioned during the trial to buttress this argument, although it is totally without legal or material justification. The argument was that in this case there was no dissemination of news but of ideas and that the Cuban state is violating not just what our Constitution but what the Universal Human Rights Declaration says.

[Samper] I [word indistinct] mention the case and that it was proved during the trial that Gonzalez used to contact U.S.-based radio stations to give false reports on disturbances and human rights violations in Cuba, things that never happened. In addition, it was also proved that everything was distorted. Would you like to explain briefly to us this aspect?

[Pedriz] This case involves a dissemination of neither ideas nor opinions because, according to the file, on a nearly daily basis between March and May 1992, Rodolfo Gonzalez had contacts, with the frequency I just noted, with Mr. (Alvaro de Insua), a journalist residing in Miami, through calls from the United States to a specific location in Cuba that could never be determined. [end recording]

According to the charges, citizen Rodolfo Gonzalez spread false information [accusaciones] on the country's situation and on actions by domestic law-and-order groups [cuerpos del orden interior] that violate citizens' rights to create unrest and to incite the population to carry out acts of civil disobedience against island authorities.

Other charges refuted by the Public Prosecutor's Office pertain to the health status of counterrevolutionaries Sebastian Arcos, who is currently in prison, and Maria Elena Cruz Varela, who is currently free. Pedriz commented on the international repercussions of the dissemination of this false information:

[Begin Pedriz recording] If you recall the trial, which received ample coverage, the accused insisted that all the news and all the information on alleged human rights violations in Cuba make their way to the headquarters of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and, of course, given the effect of this on our country's security abroad, the Socialist state is under attack. The integrity and the stability of the entire Cuban social order is being attacked with this activity that is adorned with a peaceful and humanitarian touch. This is not so, because it does not have a trace of humanitarianism. Actually, it was antipatriotic, and this was demonstrated at the trial. [end recording]

The trial, which was held on 29 March, complied with all guarantees specified in procedural rules that are currently in force in the country. In keeping with Article 59 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, this trial involved a competent court by virtue of laws that were in force prior to the perpetration of the crime and conformed to the formalties it established. Lawyer (Juan Escandel Ramirez) defended the accused, Rodolfo Gonzalez Gonzalez. The defense may appeal, in keeping with Article 67, Paragraph 1, of the Penal Procedure Law, before the Havana City People's Provincial Court within five days of the ruling.

Coastal Region Building Regulations Issued

FL2104200094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT19 Apr 94

[Text] Recently issued construction regulations for Havana's Malecon designate this area as a special restriction zone. According to the measures, from now on, no additions, new construction, offices on ground floors, or other businesses with complex equipment are to be built. The new codes will allow new projects in the zone, as well as construction, restoration, maintenance, and other activities in existing buildings, however, taking risk factors into consideration. The new codes are to be strictly adhered to by state and residential sectors, and are meant to lessen the effects of weather in the area.

During this first phase, the areas included run from the Almendares River to the bay tunnel; and from Malecon Avenue to Linea Street.

Regarding new construction in that area, projects must be approved and must meet urban planning and control requirements. In other words, the bottom levels of buildings must not have elements obstructing the free flow of water, in addition of preserving the environment and character of the Malecon.

With reference to the regulations affecting Playa and Habana del Este, work continues to determine what regulations are to be applied in those coastal municipalities.

Crombet Speaks to Ciego de Avila Deputies

FL2104173794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The deputies to the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] from Ciego de Avila Province are ready for the special session of the ANPP to be held on 1 May. This was announced at the meeting chaired by ANPP Vice President Jaime Crombet at the seat of the provincial government. During the meeting, also attended by the presidents of the People's Councils, and the provincial Administration Council, it was reported that over 40 percent of the suggestions made at the workers assemblies have been implemented. The importance of this new democratic practice to solve

countless problems with production and services as well as to help rejuvenate the national economy was also stressed.

Crombet pointed out that the idea is not for the ANPP to take specific measures during the forthcoming meeting, but to set the policies and guidelines to guide the government efforts to save the Revolution and accomplishments of socialism.

Lage Comments on Emigre Conference, Dialogue

FL2104193494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] During a recent visit to Granma Province, Carlos Lage Davila, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Council of Ministers, made important statements regarding the Nation and the Emigre Community conference, which begins on 22 April in Havana.

[Begin Lage recording] It is important. We have always maintained a dialogue with sectors of the Cuban community abroad that maintain a position of respect toward the Revolution, acknowledge the Revolution, and condemn the blockade policy. I would say that this is what shapes our relations with certain sectors of the emigre community.

With those sectors of that community who support the goals of U.S. policy—blockade and hostility toward the Revolution, there is not, nor can there be any type of ties.

In this context, this conference is important. There is the precedent of the previous meeting in 1978, if I remember well. That conference did not have a proper follow-up because the U.S. policy was progressively hardened and affected, and is still affecting normal ties between Cuba and the emigre community. Those ties are damaged because they are hampered by U.S. policy. We believe that this meeting will make progress in this regard and could represent an important step to strengthen communication and ties, and above all, policies and the struggle against the blockade. [end recording]

Robaina: South American Tour 'Very Positive'

FL2104124994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 apr 94

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina described his recent tour of South American countries as very positive. Upon his arrival he made exclusive statements for this newscast. His tour through Uruguay, Peru, Argentina, and Paraguay allowed him to make the reality of our country known to those countries and opened new channels of communication in Cuba's relations with other Latin American countries.

[Begin Robaina recording] I believe that being able to talk about Cuba's truth and being able to learn of the continent's reality represents a lot. For me there is no greater satisfaction than having been able to transmit, and sometimes I fear not having been able to do so with enough intent, the respect, authority, and love that is generated by the way that the Cuban people not only resist, but by the way they resist, live, work, walk, and triumph. [end recording]

Besides meeting with high-ranking officials, party leaders, and friends of Cuba, Robaina's visit awakened great interest among the business community of those countries.

[Begin Robaina recording, in progress] ...the large number of businessmen with whom I met, and the doubts that may arise from the debt were not the main issue in these business meetings. These doubts would arise from within determined structures of the government that wanted to make the issue of the debts the center of their negotiations, but the great majority of businessmen asked about the possibility of investments. They asked about judicial guarantees. They asked about constitutional, and financial guarantees and about the different line of goods. To all this, Cuba has much more than answers. I believe that this... [pauses] First of all, they know that Cuba is a market, that there are possibilities, and they know that it is a country that, like very few in the world, has an established infrastructure with an unprecedented level in education, science, and technology. [end recording]

Regarding "The Nation and the Emigre Community" conference which will begin on 22 April, in Havana city, Robaina stated:

[Begin Robaina recording] In the extent that the reality of that community abroad begins to express itself in a different way, and the reality of the nation begins to change, we take steps which are derived from a new situation. A new situation which I insist demonstrates the audacity of our project and of the country that summons the meeting because we continue having abnormal conditions as in the past. I believe that under abnormal conditions one cannot ask that relations with the emigre community be normal.

Once again Cuba is putting itself above all those abnormal situations and is capable of finding a solution and a topic for these times. I believe this is what brings us to this conference.

For me the most important thing remains the path that is being opened and the way in which in a responsible and civilized manner, and, above all, with much comprehension and mutual respect, we will be able to discuss common issues from this point on. [end recording]

High-Ranking French Labor Leader Arrives

FL2204015994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Louis Vianet, secretary general of the French General Confederation of Labor, arrived this afternoon in Cuba at the head of a high-ranking delegation. Upon his arrival at the Jose Marti International Airport, where

he was met by Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] and other officials of the Cuban labor union movement, Vianet stated: I bring the solidarity of the French workers to the Cuban labor union movement. The members of this high-level delegation from France will also participate in various ceremonies in Havana City to salute 1 May, and will visit centers of economic and social interest on the island.

It was also announced that so far, 389 delegates from 27 countries have confirmed their participation in Cuba's central activities marking International Workers Day. These guests belong to 59 labor union organizations from different parts of the world.

Delegate: Small-Island Teamwork Imperative

FL2104195994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pedro Luis Pedroso, a Foreign Ministry expert, believes that only cooperation among small island countries and decisive international support will make it possible for this group of nations to achieve sustainable development by the year 2,000. Pedroso pointed out Cuba's efforts in this regard, and ratified Cuba's willingness to help other nations.

Pedroso is a member of the Cuban delegation to the First International Small Island Nations Sustainable Development Conference to be held from 25 April to 6 May in Barbados.

Haiti

Aristide Calls U.S. Policy 'Cynical Joke'

FL2104210794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] President Aristide is once again criticizing U.S. policy toward Haiti. The president-in-exile accused the United States of lacking political willingness to see the return of democracy to Haiti, and called their policy racist and a cynical joke.

Washington's policy of returning the Haitian refugees is a way of saying they could care less about them; they can die. So far, President Bill Clinton has shown no proof that he cares about them, asserted Father Aristide during a news conference on Thursday.

Aristide came to support the hunger strike of the director of the association, Transafrica, Rindall Robinson. Mr. Robinson has decided to pursue his hunger strike, begun on 12 April to protest the summary repatriations of Haitian refugees and the American policy in Haiti that he calls cruel, discriminatory, and deeply racist.

The United States, said Aristide, set up a sort of artificial embargo, but that is not what we are asking for. He reiterated the need for a total embargo. It should be recalled that President Clinton asserted on 20 April the willingness of the United States to pursue the trade embargo against Haiti in order to achieve the return of democracy to Haiti.

Warns To Expect 'Flood' of Refugees

FL2104220494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Haitian President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide has warned the United States that he cannot prevent a flood of Haitian refugees from landing on U.S. coasts if democracy is not restored in his country. Furthermore, Father Aristide, who was speaking in front of the World Affairs Council [previous three words in English] in San Francisco on 18 April, reproached the Clinton government for giving the impression of withdrawing in the face of armed bands supported by the Haitian military. In the face of some hooligans, the most powerful country in the world cannot pretend that they are stronger than they, he asserted, pointing up until now he had urged his partisans to remain in Haiti to work for democracy instead of trying to reach the coasts of Florida.

Aristide pointed out that henceforth it would be cynical to maintain this recommendation in light of U.S. inaction. The Clinton administration said last week that it would continue to follow the democratic path while seeking a solution, but that it did not exclude other options. The day before, the president of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives requested U.S. military intervention to put an end to the military regime in Haiti.

Senators Pledge To Institute 'Clean Sweep'

FL2104193394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Passages within quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpts] Senator [Bernard] Sansaricq has decided to implement—with or without the support of the Chamber of Deputies—the resolution voted on 10 April by the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion] senators and the 18 January senators, demanding the implementation of Article 149 of the Constitution. The duty of a senator is to help his endangered homeland, says Sen. Sansaricq, who has set a deadline for the implementation of this resolution.

[Begin recording] [Sansaricq] "With or without the Chamber of Deputies, either we implement it or there will be a clean sweep [table rase]." Something must be done. The nation is in danger. The state is threatened to its very foundations. So, I cannot play with such a situation. I can allow a certain amount of time, set a deadline, but I think that after this deadline, all political leaders in the country—I received many calls yesterday and today—I think all truly lucid leaders in the country will support the Senate in what it wants to do because something must be done, regardless. [passage omitted] I have given myself a deadline. This means that if this

deadline passes with nothing having been done, the Senate will provoke a crisis one way or another, come what may.

[Unidentified reporter] By the way, this resolution is quite constitutional, according to Bernard Sansaricq, who demands the support of the Armed Forces. Otherwise, threatens the president of the Senate's unofficial office, the Armed Forces have only to get ready to assume power because the military authorities will have no other choice, given the clean sweep policy.

[Sansaricq] We adopted a constitutional resolution. There is the principle of requisitioning the Army. "It is up to the Army to move along a constitutional path, or the Senate will withdraw after a certain time. We will collectively resign. Then, the Army will have to assume its responsibilities toward the nation.

[Reporter] "To hold new elections?

[Sansaricq] "Whatever they want to do." [end recording]

'Clean Sweep' Seen as 'Breach of Democracy'

FL2104222794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The news today, as it has been all week, is about a series of meetings held by the office of the Chamber of Deputies in an effort to solve the political deadlock. A second meeting is planned for today between the office of the Chamber of Deputies and the General Staff of the Haitian Armed Forces. The meeting will relate to the political crisis and current deadlock. On Tuesday, 19 April, the military authorities received a delegation of deputies to hear the various scenarios for a solution to the crisis. Within the scope of this initiative, the deputies met on 20 April with representatives of the Episcopal Conference and with the Vatican's ambassador to Port-au-Prince. Edner Jean filed a report:

[Begin Jean recording] As the consultations move forward, the solution to the crisis is moving farther and farther away from Article 149 of the Constitution, at least so far as the Chamber of Deputies is concerned. The last meeting with the Army only reinforced the position held by the majority of deputies and expressed a thousand times—the inapplicability of Article 149 of the Constitution at the current juncture.

If the military did not totally disregard that option, neither are they willing to support the legislators favoring such an approach. The Army would rather seek a concerted solution, confessed Deputy Pierre Simon Georges, president of the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion], who participated in this meeting at Army Headquarters. The deputy from Camp-Perin who was the first, on 8 October 1991, to vote for Article 149, today believes that this constitutional provision has seen its day and that the Clean Sweep solution would be a breach of democracy.

Deputy Pierre Simon Georges, who never hid his affinity with the Army, invites the military to analyze the grave socioeconomic consequences that could lead to a total blockade of the country. [passage omitted]

From a generally reliable source, we have learned that the deputies are due to meet with the Army General Staff again on Thursday. Meanwhile, the president of the lower chamber is tirelessly pursuing his consultations. Objective: to collect the maximum amount of data before taking any new action to fill the governmental vacuum.

Frantz Robert Monde has the moral support of the Chamber of Deputies. However, some legislators regret the fact that the preliminary results of those meetings were covered in camera. [passage omitted]. It should be pointed out that this series of meetings is due to close with a phone conference with President Aristide in Washington. [end recording]

Antoine Joseph Favors Talks Over 'Clean Sweep'

FL2104195694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The former president of the lower chamber, Deputy Antoine Joseph, called on the Army and the private sector on 20 April to take a stand against the clean sweep policy and the implementation of Article 149. Deputy Joseph deems the demands of some political sectors that demand the return of President Aristide 10 days after the appointment of a new prime minister unrealistic.

[Begin Joseph recording, in Creole] Certain solutions that have been proposed are supported by some sectors. I can put myself in the shoes of the private sector. I very much doubt that the private sector would have an interest in supporting the implementation of Art. 149. This is also my private position. Personally, I think the country is not ready to face the political and financial consequences of the implementation of Art. 149. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Furthermore, Deputy Joseph reaffirmed his support for the initiative of the president of the Chamber of Deputies to begin consultations with the various sectors involved in the crisis. [passage omitted]

Constitutionalist Bloc Works on Amnesty Law

FL2104195794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Constitutionalist Bloc senators are now working on the amnesty law. According to parliamentary sources, the Senate office of President Jean-Louis was able to reach the quorum of 13 senators to discuss this law. Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion] senators, notably including Franck Leonard and Luc Fleurinord, allegedly participated in those sessions. Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis, who has just returned from a tour of North America, where he met with President Aristide and State Department officials, is working feverishly to finalize the works.

The Senate will hold a session this morning in the presence of the press under the presidency of Honorable Firmin Jean-Louis.

Zedillo Pays 'Surprise Visit' to Chiapas

PA2204024594 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by special correspondents Ana Patricia Candiani and Rosi Ahuaxi Vazquez for the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Excerpts] Today the country focuses its attention on Chiapas State, where Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon paid a surprise visit. He met in San Cristobal de las Casas with Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas State, as well as with mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz. [passage omitted]

In a surprise and brief visit, the agenda of which was a secret right up until the last minute, Ernesto Zedillo visited Chiapas, in the first stages of his political campaign, a campaign begun by Luis Donaldo Colosio. He arrived at 1000 in San Cristobal de las Casas, where he was interviewed by local radio station XEWM Radio 640. There he reiterated his statement made in Tuxtla Gutierrez as he deplaned: Peace, harmony, and unity are essential to reaching agreements that fully satisfy those with fair demands. Ernesto Zedillo was clear when he was asked whether he would be willing to talk to the EZLN. He replied: The federal government is responsible first; only if the government asks me would I participate in that dialogue.

[Begin Zedillo recording] The negotiations are without a doubt the government's responsibility, specifically through the president's peace commissioner. I have said that I am willing to talk in good faith with any Mexican citizen. If at any time the peace commissioner, the government, considers it important that I attest or guarantee that I will honor the government's commitments when I take office, I will do so with pleasure. [end recording]

Ernesto Zedillo admitted that the country's future is at risk and that our future will depend on what we do today. Poverty, dropouts, and exclusions should anger us and serve as incentive to decisively fight these issues.

After Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon's interview with this local radio station, he met privately with Bishop Samuel Ruiz of San Cristobal de las Casas. This private conversation lasted about 40 minutes. He spoke about this conversation at a news conference in the main park.

[Begin Zedillo recording] It was a conversation where I basically reiterated to him what I already said publicly this morning on the radio regarding my wish that permanent peace and reconciliation be achieved soon here in Chiapas. [end recording]

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon walked through the main park in San Cristobal de las Casas, where people declared their demands for peace because they have lived through war.

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon also answered some reporters' questions. One question was on whether a campaign against President Carlos Salinas de Gortari exists. He simply replied the president deserves esteem, respect, and consideration. Regarding economic pressures, he said that conditions look promising. Luis Donaldo Colosio's death led to a climate of uncertainty, but as the days pass we will regain confidence.

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon arrived in San Cristobal de las Casas with a reinforced personal escort. At the end of his interview in the main park in San Cristobal de las Casas, he returned to Tuxtla Gutierrez, where he will board a private flight to Mexico City.

Camacho Expects EZLN Statement on Talks Resumption

PA2204020894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1957 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 21 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, said here today that in the coming days the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] will provide "a clear answer in favor of resuming the dialogue" for peace. "Something new will emerge very soon in favor of resuming the talks," with the armed group, given the responsibility of the EZLN leadership, the commissioner said at a news conference in this colonial city, located 1,200 km southeast of the Mexican capital.

Camacho said there is confidence that there will be a negotiated solution to the conflict that began on 1 January when the self-styled Zapatist army occupied four towns of Los Altos de Chiapas in the southeastern part of Mexico. He based his opinion on the fact that the EZLN has honored the cease-fire in the certainty that channels for dialogue are open and that the leadership of the armed group is aware that the Mexican Government has issued statements promoting the talks.

On 3 March, Camacho Solis and EZLN delegates concluded the first phase of negotiations aimed at achieving a negotiated solution to the Chiapas conflict.

The peace commissioner recalled the agreement signed in the past few days with the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations (CEOIC), giving space and time to the peace process.

He stressed the importance of the Tuesday meeting between President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the official Los Pinos residence with leaders of southern Chiapas cattlemen's organizations and small landowners. They discussed the problem of land invasions.

Camacho said the Mexican Army's decision to maintain the cease-fire is in recognition and support of the peace process, as is the commitment of the Mexican Episcopal Conference in favor of resuming the talks.

He said statements by all the presidential candidates in favor of peace will help to establish greater guarantees for short-term fulfillment of the government's commitments established at the negotiating table in San Cristobal de las Casas.

Ernesto Zedillo, presidential candidate for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, toured this colonial city today.

Camacho said it is important that the presidential hopefuls commit themselves publicly to strengthening the peace process in Chiapas.

Camacho Resignation Story Causes Stir

PA2104163194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by special correspondent Juan Carlos Santoyo from San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas]

[Text] [Announcer Jose Cardenas] We will soon contact Juan Carlos Santoyo, our special envoy in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas State, where Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis arrived today after attending a meeting yesterday at Los Pinos Presidential Residence, where President Carlos Salinas de Gortari met with cattle ranchers and small Chiapas landowners to discuss land seizures.

Yesterday, the president was very clear when he called on all participants in the conflict to sit down and negotiate by Monday at the latest and agree on a solution to all problems and conflicts that could worsen the already tense situation in Chiapas State.

Nevertheless, aside from the negotiations which will take place on Monday and which have caught the attention of the entire country, something else occurred today that has caused a great stir. Francisco Martin Moreno, a journalist and the author of "Mexico Negro" and "La Disculpa," today published on EXCELSIOR's frontpage an article entitled: "The Reason I Resigned: The Rules of the Political Game." In this article in today's edition of EXCELSIOR, Francisco Martin Moreno, without mentioning any names—this must be made clear—and always writing in the first person, as if it were a letter, says: It has been said that the commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas State has decided to resign from his post for the following reasons:

1. His peace efforts have been considered a factor of political distortion, which affected the candidacy of Luis Donaldo Colosio and could do the same to the candidacy of Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon.
2. It also has been said, according to Francisco Martin Moreno's article, that he garnered more headlines than the PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party] very own presidential campaign, thereby hurting his party and Mexico. The author continues by explaining that if this was indeed the case, it was because events in Chiapas State monopolized the attention of all Mexicans.
3. Nearly a month after he was considered a political cadaver, he is still said to harbor ulterior motives in his dialogue with the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army]. In this connection, Martin Moreno explains in his article, which is fiction [de ficcion], that it has been perversely said that the peace commissioner resisted resigning in the hope that an electoral triumph by the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] on 21 August would create the possibility of a provisional presidency that would require special elections in which the winner could be the peace commissioner. Martin Moreno says that for this reason, the resignation was needed to demonstrate that the peace commissioner in Chiapas was not attempting to take advantage of a post-elections conflict.

The peace commissioner supposedly said, according to Francisco Martin Moreno in this fictitous article, that on two occasions he lost his candidacy for presidency by playing by the rules of the game of Mexican politics, even though he cannot stop asking himself why it was not him instead of Colosio in the first place, and later, instead of Zedillo. For all of the above reasons, says Francisco Martin Moreno's article in EXCELSIOR, the peace commissioner reflected and arrived at the conclusion of presenting his alleged resignation to avoid that his name destabilize and encourage uncertainty within the PRI.

This is the end of a brief summary of the article that appears today on EXCELSIOR's frontpage, which, as we said at the beginning, Manuel Camacho Solis' name is never mentioned, even though it is perfectly clear that it is a hypothetical resignation, which Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas State, should present.

This article is by Francisco Martin Moreno, who, you will recall was among other things our consul in Barcelona. Francisco Martin Moreno was a Finance and Public Credit Secretariat official, until one day he decided to leave everything for peace and do what he likes best—to write and investigate. He became a full-time investigator. This yielded, among other important works, his book called "Mexico Negro," where he tells all about the black history of Mexico's oil, and everything that Lazaro Cardenas' had to do with oil expropriations and the oppressive actions of the so-called Seven Sisters—those companies that exerted pressure on the Mexican Government from all sides—both politically and economically. "Mexico Negro" is a splendid book and a splendid bit of investigative work carried out by Francisco Martin Moreno—a man who was a bureaucrat and became an intellectual.

Now, Francisco, a man I hold in high esteeem and respect because he is my friend, published in the EXCELSIOR newspaper this alleged resignation by Manuel Camacho, and all hell has broken loose.

Juan Carlos, how are you?

[Santoyo] Good afternoon. You are right, an uproar has been created, and naturally there is reaction. Of course,

Camacho Solis has reacted. He is here in San Cristobal de las Casas, and today he met privately with San Cristobal Bishop Samuel Ruiz. Since the start, the question was: What about the letter? Was it his? In the beginning, he did not want to say anything. Later, he said he did indeed have something to say, and this is what he said:

[Begin Camacho recording] Someone told me about an article that outlined my reasons for resigning. This person then asked me: Are you resigning from the commission? The article, however, was not signed by me, but by Francisco Martin Moreno, a friend of mine. We are dealing with an editorial written by someone else—someone who, by the way, writes very well and is an intelligent man.

I will comment on the article, because it may represent the opinion of not only Francisco, but also of someone else. It is very worrisome to me that at this stage there are still people who are unaware of what is going on in the state of Chiapas. The negotiation process in the state of Chiapas is being taken lightly. [end recording]

[Santoyo] Camacho also said: The situation in Chiapas has not yet been settled. The deep-rooted causes of the problem are still there. We are still not in a position to determine terms for resuming the talks. Camacho, smiling and at ease, also said: Casting doubts on the dialogue process would be politically irresponsible.

[Begin Camacho recording] The problem has not been resolved. The deep-rooted causes of the problem are still there. We cannot even determine terms for resuming the talks. Casting doubts on the dialogue process would constitute political irresponsibility, which, fortunately, is not shared by any of the country's political forces—all of which have backed the negotiations. This position also is not shared by Dr. Zedillo, who summed up this subject and offered full support for the negotiations process. Neither is this position shared by the Catholic Church, which supports the efforts to resume the talks, or intellectuals, or members of civilian society. Francisco's opinion must be respected, as must every writer's opinion, but I am concerned about such a cursory analysis of what is going in Chiapas. [end recording]

[Santoyo] Camacho continued: First of all, let us see how the talks will be resumed. If we succeed in resuming the talks, that would be good news for the entire country. Moreover, I think this is the time to figure out what is truly important in Mexico. Camacho said there are two basic concepts in Mexico: first, to promote peace and uphold public opinion; and second, to continue to nurture democracy. These two things go hand in hand. I will continue to work on these things from my humble home in San Cristobal de las Casas, Camacho concluded.

Defense Secretariat Denies Human Rights Violations

PA2104191394 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by special correspondent Juan Carlos Santoyo from San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas]

[Text] [Announcer Jose Cardenas] Special correspondent Santoyo will now report on the reactions in Chiapas to a bulletin released this morning by the National Defense Secretariat [Sedena] asserting that no member of the Mexican Army is guilty of violating human rights in the Chiapas conflict. Sedena says none of the 127 human rights violations reports is valid. Come in, Juan Carlos.

[Santoyo] Although this bulletin is being treated with a certain amount of reservation here in Chiapas, some communities have reacted by saying these reports should be looked at more closely. Some people are not happy about the bulletin, particularly those who are being held at the Cerro Hueco Prison who seriously question this statement by the Sedena. They say it is the authorities who have the final word.

The problems in Chiapas are increasing. Six days ago, on 21 April, to be exact, 380 people from the group known as the Three Knots returned to Ochuc. These people, who have been described as rural teachers disguised as peasants, were expelled from Ochuc because they were considered dangerous and destabilizing.

A very serious incident occurred today. Two minors, one an eight year old and the other a 14 year old, were burned alive when their wooden shack was drenched with gasoline and set on fire. This is thought to be a revenge attack by some of those who had been expelled from Ochuc. The incident, which occurred in the village of Tobija some 14 km from Ochuc, is being investigated. Four people have been detained. Ochuc municipal President Emilio Gomez Santis traveled to Tuxtla Gutierrez to meet with the governor, Javier Lopez Moreno, so the proper actions could be taken.

We in the media are concerned because arriving at Ochuc is very difficult. One man, who declined to identify himself and just said he was a local authority, gave us a very serious warning. After giving us some information, he said: The people are very upset. You might as well leave. You are still alive. If you came in a car, drive away because it could be destroyed. We cannot be held responsible for your lives.

Of course, after this warning, we put some distance between ourselves and this town. These people are very upset, particularly because they are being forced to accept people they had expelled for political reasons. Some of the teachers, identified as members of the Democratic Revolution Party, have caused some problems in the municipality because most of the people here

belong to or are followers of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]. The number of dead will increase if what is happening there is not stopped.

The last that I will tell you is that Jorge Gonzalez Torres, candidate for the Ecologist Party, is scheduled to arrive in San Cristobal de las Casas tonight. He will make a working tour in some local communities, and on Friday he will take water trucks to local Indian communities. In addition, National Action Party candidate Diego Fernandez Cevallos will make a tour from Friday to Monday. His public relations committee has gotten in touch with us in the media. It has been reported that we can use the press room set up by the federal government.

Salinas, Chiapas Ranchers Discuss Land Problems

PA2204034094 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari held a meeting late Tuesday night with representatives of the three Chiapas cattlemen's organizations. The ranchers said the president pledged to restore order in the state and to prevent more land invasions. They will see solutions within a week, the president said. The cattlemen said they would not take up weapons as a group but added that they are willing to defend their lands.

[Begin recording] [Jorge Constantino Kanter, president of the Regional Cattlemen's Union of Chiapas] The cattlemen of the state of Chiapas support dialogue and negotiation in favor of a worthy peace in Chiapas. Peace, along with a state of law, will be our best guarantee. That is what we basically told the president. We are willing to hold a dialogue with the governor, the peasant organizations, and the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] itself in an effort to find practical solutions to the current conflicts. A worthy peace will provide us the necessary tranquillity to contribute to coexistence among the people of Chiapas, to resume our productive activities, and promote the region's economy. That will be the basis of the new relations among the people of Chiapas.

President Salinas' commitment is to find solutions through the agrarian reform secretary within a week. He will hold talks with the governor to provide realistic solutions for the problems we are experiencing in Chiapas.

We have been very clear. We are not prepared to take up weapons, but there are people in the area who are willing to defend their land—no matter what—because of the difficult situation. This does not mean we are taking up weapons as a group. It would be too complicated for the state and for the country. If we are going to sit down and talk to peasant organizations is because we are going to reach an agreement. If it is a negotiation both sides have to give things up. It is that simple. We have said that we want to be treated fairly as Mexicans.

[Unidentified reporter] What did the president ask of you? Did he urge you to be prudent?

[Constantino] He did not do that because we have been prudent. He recognized the tranquillity and peacefulness of the cattlemen. I repeat, the situation of the cattlemen is Chiapas is very different from any other land invasion in the republic. On Monday at 1930 we are going to sit down in the government palace for a meeting between small landowners, the state governor, and peasant organizations.

[Reporter] When can a meeting be held with the EZLN?

[Constantino] We do not know. It would be through the peace commissioner.

[Reporter] Was he there?

[Constantino] Yes, he was there.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Constantino] The state governor has done everything possible to solve things, but it is a very difficult, critical situation. We cannot ask for a quick solution to such a serious problem. We believe that if we are going to sit down to talk, we have to negotiate as intelligent people. If we do that I believe there is no need to take up weapons. We do not want to create problems, let alone create more problems for the country.

[Reporter] Are you willing to wait?

[Constantino] If we came here it is because we are desperate. We are supposedly going to sit down to talk and hold a dialogue. We have said that we believe in the country's institutions. We trust the president. If we did not trust the president, we would not be here.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Constantino] There is an agreement. The governor was clear. Starting on 14 April there would be no more invasions, otherwise the authorities are going to start evicting people. I believe the government will help us out. We believe they will take action. [end recording]

El Salvador

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA2104170294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to El Salvador presidential run-off elections scheduled for 24 April 1994.

Armando Calderon Sol, Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, candidate for president, said on 16 April that, if he comes out the winner in the elections, he will combat government corruption even more strongly than Alfredo Cristiani's administration. (San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Apr 94)

Reacting to Ruben Zamora, candidate for president for a coalition of three leftist parties who said Calderon Sol's eventual election victory would be "very dangerous," the ARENA candidate on 19 April asserted that he will comply with the pending peace agreements because they "are a national commitment and must be complied with to consolidate a true state of law." (Paris AFP in Spanish 2316 GMT 19 Apr 94)

Honduras

President To Declare State of Emergency Over Energy Crisis

PA2104234894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2311 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina announced today that in the next few hours he will decree a state of national emergency in light of the serious energy crisis affecting the country. In statements at the Government House, the president said the decree will be made public this Thursday as part of a search for solutions to the serious problem of the electricity shortage, a situation which forced authorities to regulate the service three months ago.

Reina declared that he has spoken to the presidents of Panama and Nicaragua, Guillermo Endara and Violeta Chamorro, as well as to advisers of Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon to ask for their help in solving the problem. The president said that Honduras will ask these countries to sell their energy surplus to Honduras so as to try to cover the daily deficit of over 80 megawatts that now exists in local electricity supply.

Three months ago, the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) implemented an energy rationing plan that has caused losses estimated in the millions for the private sector, in addition to interfering with the government's activities, as well of those of citizens in general.

The crisis was brought on by a lack of water at the "Francisco Morazan" hydroelectric plant, which supplies 63 percent of the national demand, as well as by a lack of planning by previous administrations, according to official sources.

Operations at the hydroelectric plant could come to a standstill in the next three months if the rainy season is not good, ENEE experts concluded.

Presidential Decree on Energy Crisis

PA2204020094 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Apr 94

["Emergency Decree" issued by President Carlos Roberto Reina during a Council of Ministers meeting in Tegucigalpa on 21 April; read by reporter Lourdes Bonilla at the Presidential House—live relay]

[Text] Whereas, the expansion of electrification programs carried out in the last few years throughout the country has resulted in a substantial increase in demands for energy by users in the productive sector and by individuals,

Whereas, the power-generating capacity of hydroelectric plants and complexes, as well as that of state-owned thermal centers, has been seriously reduced by today's energy demands,

Whereas, the power-generating capacity has been affected by rainy seasons characterized by little rain, as a result of which water levels required by dams to secure the energy supply have not been maintained,

Whereas, the Valle de Sula region in particular has witnessed accelerated growth in the use of energy because of the demand required for the installation of assembly processing plants and industrial plants,

Whereas, it is evident that during the previous administration no timely measures were adopted to try to resolve the looming energy crisis,

Whereas, the deficit in energy production in the face of high demand forces the state to consider the need to incorporate the private sector into the sector for power generation and distribution of energy, thus allowing the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE] to devote greater efforts and resources to the search for other sources for generating electric power,

Whereas, the state, through ENEE, is forced to guarantee the energy supply in an efficient and timely manner, so as to preserve the nation's energy security to guarantee the development of the national economy and national social interests,

Whereas, until Congress approves the Energy Sector Draft Bill, which is now before the Congress awaiting discussion, debate, and passage, it is necessary to adopt urgent measures to meet energy demands in a way that will provide maximum benefit to users and the country in general,

Whereas, since 28 March of this year the president of the Republic, in light of the emergency confronting energy supplies, created an executive branch commission to

study the causes and effects of said crisis in order to adopt the most appropriate measures for resolving the same,

Whereas, according to Article 245 of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the president of the Republic to administer the state and as he has the specific power to decree special measures regarding economic and financial matters, as required by the national interests and provided he notifies the national Congress,

The Presidency of the Republic—in exercising the powers granted it by Articles 24, Paragraph 1 and Points 11, 20, 35, and 252 of the Constitution of the Republic; Articles 11, 22, 9, and 117 of the General Law of Public Administration; and Article 160, Paragraph 1 of the Law of Contracting by the State—resolves:

Article 1: To authorize ENEE to proceed, considering the existing critical circumstances, through simultaneous bidding or direct contracting, to obtain the required energy from national and/or international sources. This will permit the country to secure the appropriate continuity and effectiveness of the energy sector to the benefit of different national sectors.

Article 2: To create the Energy Sector Emergency Commission to advise, support, and aid ENEE in examining and handling the crisis, as well as in making whatever decisions are necessary to deal with the crisis in an effective, concrete, and appropriate manner. This commission will be formed by an Executive Committee and a group of advisers, as follows:

The Executive Committee will consist of the following:

1. The secretary of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation (SECOPT) or a person appointed by him to preside over the committee.
2. The manager of ENEE or a person appointed by him. This includes experts and former officials who have worked at ENEE, such as Engineers Raul Flores Guillen, Luis [word indistinct], and (Mauricio Mutis), who will act as executive secretary of the Committee.

The group of advisers will consist of the following:
1. Mr. Adolfo [word indistinct], repesenting the Honduran Council for Private Enterprise, COHEP.
2. Roberto Reyes Silva, representing the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortez.
3. Rafael Ferrari, representing the media, or a person appointed by him.

Article 4 [number as heard]: The president [words indistinct] immediate implementation and must be published at the official LA GAZETA newspaper.

Article 5: The promulgation of the same must be reported to the sovereign National Congress.

Issued in the city of Tegucigalpa, Central District Municipality, on 29 April 1994

Be it published and fulfilled.

Carlos Roberto Reina, president of the Republic

U.S. Support for UN Council Bid Reported

PA2204034494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0310 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The United States will support Honduras in its aspirations to join the UN Security Council, the Foreign Relations Ministry reported today.

In a communique, the Honduran Foreign Ministry announced U.S. Ambassador to Tegucigalpa William Pryce expressed Washington's support for Honduras. The United States "has the pleasure to support Honduras' candidacy and hopes to work with its representative at the Security Council that will be installed in 1995," the U.S. envoy said, according to the text of the communique. Pryce remarked it will be "a pleasure and honor to give them our support," while Honduran Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar explained that the White House decision is valued "highly," according to the document.

U.S. support of this nation's hopes to become a nonpermanent member of the Security Council "represents a good piece of news, a specific demonstration of the excellent relations between Honduras and the United States," Paz Aguilar emphasized.

Honduras has become the sole candidate of the group of nations from Latin America and the Caribbean for the election that will take place during the 49th session of the UN General Assembly, scheduled for next autumn.

The UN Security Council has five permanent members—China, the United States, France, Great Britain, and Russia—and 10 nonpermanent members, whose membership changes every two years.

Nicaragua

Lacayo, Ministers Explain ESAF Consequences

PA2104211394 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Apr 94 pp 1, 8

[By Alfonso Malespin Jiron]

[Text] In a news conference to announce that the government has already signed the letter of intent for the ESAF [Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility] with the IMF, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo explained that fuel prices and electricity and water rates will increase continuously as the cordoba slides against the dollar.

Diesel will increase 46 centavos between April and December, at the rate of seven centavos a month; gasoline will increase 14 centavos each month; the minimum rate for electricity consumption will increase from 51 to 55 cordobas; and the minimum water consumption rate will increase from 16 to 17.07 cordobas.

In addition, the ESAF—which will guarantee $660 million in funds and the renegotiation of the $11.638 billion foreign debt—will not help the current agricultural season, because the funds will not begin arriving in the country until July.

The coffee and cattle sectors and the FISE [Emergency Fund For Social Investments] and PAMIC [National Program to Support Microenterprises] projects will benefit from funds from the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, and the BCIE [Central American Bank of Economic Integration].

According to Lacayo, with the ESAF, the government is "righting the wrongs" it inherited from former President Ortega and recovering "the sovereignty lost" by contracting a debt which he estimated at $12 billion.

The members of the economic cabinet were especially harsh in their references to the Sandinist Front, which they accused of "mortgaging" and "harming the sovereignty" of the country during the past decade. According to them, it is not until now that the economic policy is being handled responsibly. It was announced that "the government is not going to pay the military debt [deuda belica]" left by the past administration. According to Foreign Minister Erwin Kruger, Nicaragua owes $3 billion to the former Soviet Union. Russia demands the payment of at least $500 million, but the Violeta Chamorro government is willing to renegotiate only $150 million.

According to Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, the ESAF "will open opportunities for everyone, specially the poorest people," because it will reduce public expenses by 250 million cordobas and strengthen the social protection umbrella. Minister Lacayo stressed the ESAF does not represent new "rough times" for the country, but an opportunity to pay less to the Paris Club; greater financing for agricultural production; and more schools and health centers. "This is a fundamental phase to place the house in order; it is directed at resolving debt problems," Finance Minister Emilio Pereira said. "The new phase is one of opportunities and of an economy for progress." Minister Lacayo said that even though the ESAF will mean that the country will have "the opportunity to grow in a sustained and equitable manner," the government is ready to face any protest by the people.

In a positive tone, Minister Lacayo said that through the ESAF, three jobs will be created for each one of the 13,500 jobs that will be eliminated in the state sector in the next three years, adding 84,675 jobs. [figures as published]

Demobilized Fighters Block Entrances to Quilali

PA2104170594 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Apr 94 p 7

[Report by Henry Vargas and Irma Franco]

[Text] Ocotal, Nueva Segovia—In an attempt at rebellion, 150 former members of the 3-80 Northern Front blocked the entrances to the city of Quilali for one hour. They said it was a peaceful seizure to protest the government's noncompliance with an agreement to distribute land before the beginning of the current agricultural season. The seizure occurred at 1100 on 20 April, and they decided to withdraw from the city when they found no support from the local population.

The former fighters said their main demand is the distribution of land, as stipulated in the demobilization agreement recently signed by the government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], their leader. During the brief seizure of the city, they also demanded bank financing for the planting of basic grains, as the government had promised.

According to a military report, this seizure had no significance because it did not have the people's support. The townspeople say they have faith in the agreements signed with the government, indicating that peace and harmony with the former fighters and good harvests in the coming agricultural season depend on the fulfillment of the agreements.

"Esteban" Explains Situation

Salvador Talavera, alias "Esteban," confirmed that a group of sympathizers and members of the 3-80 Northern Front, who had demobilized in 1990, gathered at midday yesterday near Quilali's park to demand that the government fulfill the agreements signed four years ago. "Esteban" added that this group of demobilized individuals wanted to take advantage of the dialogue that is currently taking place between the government and the 3-80 Northern Front General Command to publicize their demands. However, at their first attempt at gathering, the police and former 3-80 Northern Front Commanders "Pajarillo" [not further identified] and "Cascabel" [Jose Santos Sanchez] arrived. The two former commanders are currently in charge of the demobilization in Quilali.

"Esteban" reiterated that the group gathered spontaneously and on their own, without any authorization. He said that the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification]-OAS was the first organization to learn about the action and that it immediately reported it to the Government Ministry.

Salvador Talavera, El Chacal's brother, said "the alleged seizure only exists in the complete disinformation irresponsibly released by certain media."

Daniel Ortega Letter to FSLN Members

PA2104220594 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Apr 94 pp 1, 9

[Letter from Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, to militants, members, and supporters of the FSLN, and the people of Nicaragua, issued in Managua on 15 April]

[Text] Brothers:

I am addressing you five weeks before the start of the "Augusto C. Sandino, for the Sake of Sandinist Unity" special Congress of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

On 19 July 1993, at a ceremony to mark the 14th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution, I made public an initiative to hold this special congress to consolidate and strengthen Sandinist unity, to ensure we are better prepared to support popular struggles, and to prepare ourselves to win the 1996 nationwide elections. Those who were at Revolution Square supported it and the Sandinist Assembly approved it later.

These days there are discussions on the basic documents dealing with crucial issues of our program and our statutes that have in turn enriched them, with proposals and resolutions presented at territorial and sectorial assemblies.

The debate is deepening and opening itself up to others to the extent that we fully welcome the FSLN and FSLN members, those who committed themselves to fight—once and a thousand times—against the Somozist dictatorship and to defend the revolution, and those who—at one time or another—have felt isolated, relegated, neglected, and even attacked. We want them to join the process of discussions at the Congress to turn the FSLN into a more participative political organization with a renewed commitment to the ideals of Augusto Sandino, Rigoberto Lopez, and Carlos Fonseca, by participating in the struggle to defend a national, democratic, and popular program for all Nicaraguans.

Sandinist brothers, Nicaraguan brothers:

These lines were written amid a debate that has at times turned vehement and passionate. The debate is there, it is in full force and is charged by politics and ideology. It should produce ideas that will enrich and strengthen Sandinist thought, actions, and unity.

Some of us Sandinists have had the privilege of experiencing three great periods of Nicaraguan history. In the 1960's and 1970's we were part of a guerrilla movement whose strength was based on our zeal and devotion, and our willingness to sacrifice even our lives. We were in the government beginning on 19 July 1979, that is, in power and facing another assault by Yankee expansionism and imperialism, which financed and organized the war against Nicaragua.

Renew and Modernize the FSLN

On 25 February 1990, before Nicaragua and the world, we gave the best example of personal selflessness and democratic exercise when we admitted defeat in the elections and handed over the government. We reaffirmed our respect for the popular vote. Today we are a political revolutionary front that must adapt to new conditions. We must promote change in favor of the people in order to successfully wage popular struggles—and in due time—win the nationwide elections of November 1996.

Amid these circumstances, we must renew and modernize the FSLN and deepen democracy within Sandinism by promoting changes that will allow us to make contributions—amid the new situation—to the freedom struggles of the people who are rebelling against sustained growth policies, sustained consumption, and sustained exploitation that industrialized capitalism or "wild capitalism" is imposing on the world today through its neo-liberal philosophy.

As we cling to our roots, culture, history, and principles, we have the obligation to promote an alternative program that will meet the hopes of the Nicaraguan people who are poorer and more debased than ever today. We must find a project for all Nicaraguans who realize that in order to guarantee stability we must ensure the well-being of a great majority of citizens who are roaming the countryside and cities, because they are unemployed, hungry, and desperate.

All this will demand clear definitions of our stand toward the policies of the current Nicaraguan Government. We want to consolidate positions and overcome contradictions and confusions that a lack of definition has provoked among the ranks of the FSLN and the Nicaraguan people.

Article 4 of the Constitution's chapter on fundamental principles states: "The Nicaraguan people have created a new state to advance their interests and guarantee their social and political accomplishments. The state is the people's most effective instrument for eliminating all forms of human domination and exploitation, giving impetus to the nation's material and spiritual progress, and making sure that the interests and rights of the majority will prevail."

Four years into the present government, this principle has systematically and grievously been negated. The social and financial adjustments have become the government's main instrument for denying the people this constitutional principle. The defective judicial system accompanies the policy of dispossessing thousands of Nicaraguan families. Unemployment, poverty, and crime rates get higher and higher in an upward spiral that gradually negates the people's most fundamental rights.

For this reason, the Sandinist Front must wage a firm and active opposition struggle against those governmental policies that undermine the people and negate the Nicaraguan Constitution's fundamental principles.

In this struggle of the Sandinist Front with the people, we must respect the methods of struggle adopted by the unemployed, those who suffer hunger, those who feel grieved by government policies. This civic and popular struggle, which is determined by the affected sectors,

must be backed by the Sandinists, in the street, the National Assembly, and in a dialogue with the government.

It is clear that it is necessary to access the government to gain a better position in the defense of the people's interests. It is also true, however, that the vote of the Nicaraguan people is the only way that we Sandinists can gain access to the government. For this reason, we also have to strengthen the people's awareness and win the 1996 elections with the citizens' conscientious vote for a broad democratic, popular, and national program, which guarantees the right for property in all its forms for all Nicaraguans, a program that proposes alternative economic policies vis a vis neo-liberalism.

Sandinist brothers, Nicaraguan brothers: To fight with the people and win the elections, we need a revolutionary party renovated in its members' commitment, with the power of Carlos Fonseca and the heroes and martyrs who gave their lives in and for the Sandinist Front, whose duty it is to stand firm and raise aloft the banners of the people and the national dignity against the onslaughts of neo-liberalism and neo-imperialism.

Sandinist brothers, Nicaraguan brothers: In this process of Special Congress debates, we must protect Sandinism's unity, which reaches beyond legitimate personal interests, views, and opinions. Just as we maturely experienced the baptism of fire of a institutional democratic system four years ago, at present we have the moral duty of participating in the democratic exercise as members of the great Sandinist family.

The debate is open. Ideas flow powerfully. To the extent that we can listen to one another, refrain from taking positions of force, and take a consensus essential to reinforcing unity, the Sandinists will become stronger and the people will attain more victories.

Sandinist brothers: It is your decision. You are the Congress.

For the Sandinist unity, everyone to the Augusto C. Sandino congress.
[Issued] Managua, 15 April 1994.

[Signed] The FSLN secretary general.

Panama

Poll Shows PRD Candidate Leading Field

PA2204010494 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Apr 94 p 2A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Ernesto Perez Balladares, presidential candidate for the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), has fallen 3.5 percent in voter preference for election as president of Panama, while Ruben Blades of the Papa Egoro Movement [MPE] moved up to second place, increasing his popularity among voters by 3.1 percent, according to a poll conducted by the Center for Latin American Studies (CELA).

Marco Gandasegui, director of the CELA survey, reported that the fifth CELA poll was conducted in early April among 2,600 people, excluding the Provinces of Darien, Bocas del Toro, and the San Blas Intendancy.

According to Gandasegui, in light of the call to unite civic forces against the PRD, a virtual union between Carles, Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, and Eduardo Vallarino could garner a high enough percentage of votes to challenge the candidacy of Perez Balladares.

The poll revealed that Perez Balladares continues to lead voters' preferences with 29.7 percent. However, he descended in popularity in comparison with the previous CELA poll, in which he obtained 33.2 percent support.

Meanwhile, Blades, who in the previous poll got 13.4 percent, which placed him third in voter preference, won 16.5 percent of popular support in this poll, boosting him into second place.

Although he registered a 0.4-percent increase in popular support over the previous poll, Ruben Dario Carles of MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] has fallen back to third place on the chart with 14.8 percent support.

Meanwhile, Mireya Moscoso de Gruber of the Arnulfist Party came in fourth in voter preference with 14.3 percent, reflecting a 6.3-percent hike over the previous poll in which she won 8.5 percent support.

The CELA poll revealed the following order for other candidates: Eduardo Vallarino of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) with 2.6 percent, Samuel Lewis Galindo of Solidarity with 1.3 percent, and Jose Salvador Munoz of the Doctrinaire Panamenist Party with 0.3 percent.

Gandasegui said that this was the last CELA poll before the 8 May elections. He announced that the organization plans to conduct another survey once the elections are over.

He added that this poll was conducted before President Endara aired the videos showing compromising footage against the PRD, as well as before the latest ILDEA-sponsored [Latin American Institute of Advanced Studies] presidential debate. Gandasegui noted that it is possible that these events have changed the level of preference for specific candidates.

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA2104211294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the Panamanian elections scheduled for 8 May 1994.

Ruben Blades, presidential candidate of the Papa Egoro Movement, has said Panamanian President Guillermo Endara muddied his hands in partisan politics by presenting a documentary video on previous regimes in a national television network. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Apr 94 p A1)

Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, presidential candidate for the Arnulfist Party (PA), warned on 17 April that she will not give up her candidacy and support Ruben Dario Carles, "who is falling behind in the polls." Meanwhile, Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (Molirena), insists that Carles is the only candidate who can defeat the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD). (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 18 Apr 94 p 1)

The various presidential candidates toured rural areas over the weekend of 16 April.

Ruben Blades visited various towns in Veraguas Province, where he met with supporters, discussed their problems, and offered solutions. "We have not sought an alliance with any political party, because we know we have an alliance with all of Panamanian society, with the Panamanian people," Blades emphasized in his visit.

Meanwhile, Ernesto Perez Balladares, presidential candidate for the PRD and the United People alliance, said he was "looking to the future and not to the past." Perez Balladares toured various towns in Chiriqui Province and met fellow party members and supporters, to whom he stressed that people in rural areas have been forgotten by the current administration.

Samuel Lewis Galindo, presidential candidate for the Solidarity Party and the Alliance for National Consensus, visited Los Santos Province, where he called for the unity among all Panamanians. Lewis Galindo urged the Panamanian people to avoid all forms of social confrontation.

Ruben Dario Carles, presidential candidate for the Change '94 ticket, visited Puerto Armuelles, Chiriqui Province, where he "promised to respect the rights of the Indians and workers." Carles charged that the PRD has tried to eliminate the workers' 13th month bonus, and he added that the PRD leadership should be imprisoned on various charges of corruption.

The PA presidential ticket toured Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro Provinces, where thousands of supporters greeted Mireya Moscoso de Gruber. She reiterated the PA will defeat the PRD on 8 May.

When PRD candidate Perez Balladares was asked about other groups forming an alliance against him, he answered: "They are trying to repeat what happened in 1989, as if they were trying to work against Noriega. I reiterate that we will not return to the past. We will not return to militarism." (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 94)

Perez Balladares has visited the industrial area of Betania corregimiento, Panama City, where he promised "private enterprise will generate most of the jobs" during his administration. He emphasized, "The government cannot generate the number of jobs needed by the economy."

On 18 April, Moscoso de Gruber said it is necessary to set aside all special interests to achieve a broad alliance. She reaffirmed her plans to form such an alliance to confront the PRD. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 94)

Argentina

Chamber of Deputies, EEC Ratify Fishing Accord

PY2104141194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2332 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA)—Despite strong opposition, the fishing treaty with the EEC was ratified this evening in the Chamber of Deputies. According to the ruling party, the fishing agreement will be instrumental in boosting our country's export revenues by $121 million.

This and other arguments brandished from the floor by Deputy Florencio Acenolaza (PJ) [Justicialist deputy for Tucuman Province] were vigorously refuted by speakers representing the other blocs, during a heated debate that went beyond the framework of the said agreement.

The blocs opposing the ratification of the agreement insisted that it be returned to the committee for further study, but the ruling majority managed to defeat this motion.

The treaty, which was signed in 1992, was ratified with the opposition of the Radical Civic Union, the Socialist Party, the Grand Front, the Movement for Independence and Dignity, and the Democratic Progressive Party. Justicialist Deputy Rafael Flores said that "this agreement is not a panacea for the fishing industry, and its benefits will depend on the controls we manage to implement." [passage omitted]

The ratification was carried by 119 votes in favor, 65 against, and two abstentions. The ruling party welcomed the result with applause.

Falkland Islanders Accept Minefield Proposal

PY2104192494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1241 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Apr (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has announced that the Malvinas Islands inhabitants have accepted an Argentine Government proposal to finance the elimination of minefields on the islands. The task will be carried out by U.S. Army Engineering Corps personnel.

Di Tella said this is "the first Argentine proposal the Kelpers have accepted" since the 1982 war. The foreign minister added that the Kelpers' main conditions are that the work "will not be carried out by Argentine experts" and that the work must be guaranteed to be "100 percent."

The Argentine Armed Forces planted some 30,000 mines on the islands during the conflict. It is estimated that the task of withdrawing them will cost between $5 and $6 million.

The foreign minister expressed a desire to travel to the islands once all mines are removed and "to walk over" the fields that have been surrounded by barbed wire since the end of the war. Argentines are forbidden entry to the islands.

During a news conference yesterday, Di Tella mentioned the possibility of financing the cleanup through a World Bank loan or a UN fund. The United Nations has approved a resolution creating a reserve to finance the removal of millions of mines planted around the globe. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister admitted that NAFTA is becoming "increasingly remote" for Argentina. He said this following a trip to Morocco where he met with representatives of various countries.

Di Tella spoke before representatives of 127 nations who were convened to sign the final act of the Uruguay round of GATT talks.

NAFTA, which comprises the United States, Mexico, and Canada, became a slim possibility when Canadian diplomats said there were doubts about any invitation to participate in the trade agreement.

The list of countries that are eligible to join NAFTA will be announced on 1 May. A report on who has ended up empty handed will be announced on 1 July.

Argentine Ambassador to UK Views Falklands

PY2104234294 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Apr 94 p 4

[Interview with Argentine Ambassador to Great Britain Mario Campora by Ana Gerschenson at his home in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] [Gerschenson] Is President Menem going to travel to London this year?

[Campora] I believe the date is closer and closer. The president has received invitations from all the countries that are partners of the United Kingdom. He was the first Latin American president to be invited by the Clinton administration. If matters continue as they have, Great Britain will be excluding itself from a relationship with a chief of state that has such a level of consideration. It is a situation that lacks common sense because common sense has always been one of the virtues that Anglo-Saxons postulate. The president's trip will be soon, very soon.

[Gerschenson] You publicly warned that with this "soft" policy toward the people of the Malvinas islands we could wake up one morning with a photograph of oil platforms sailing from London to the South Atlantic. Do you still believe this to be true?

[Campora] I said the topic had to be considered firmly in order not to receive any surprises... (silence)

[Gerschenson] And if we receive that surprise?

[Campora] ...Well... in that case... in sum... it will become part of the earlier evaluations. The minister himself is in charge of the topic and has the evaluation of the process.

[Gerschenson] But the minister does not tell his ambassador in London what he is doing with London?

[Campora] Yes... well. He personally is handling this matter and he decides. He has decided to give this matter a high priority and his personal effort.

[Gerschenson] President Menem said we are going to recover the islands in the year 2000. When do you see the Argentine flag flying over the Malvinas?

[Campora] That is futurism. The South Atlantic is an area in which Argentina's presence is progressive. When one looks at the map, one comes to the conclusion that the islands have an undisputable geographical link. There is no other alternative than that of integrating with the continent, and the continent is Argentina, and in addition it has the rights.

[Gerschenson] But Menem says that in the year 2000...

[Campora] That is a political objective. The Argentine projection foresees the final step of integration with the islands in the year 2000. In sum, in politics anything is possible.

[Gerschenson] Did they send the Christmas presents for the Kelpers [preceding word in English] from your embassy?

[Campora] No, he [Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella] sent them.

[Gerschenson] What was the repercussion on British public opinion regarding the assassinations during the 1982 war?

[Campora] This matter is currently in the hands of the Crown's Attorney, and within the next few days we are going to know what is going to be done with Scotland Yard's [preceding two words in English] investigation.

[Gerschenson] Then do you agree with the policy being implemented regarding the Malvinas Islands?

[Campora] Policy is an instrument that emerges from a higher level than mine, and it is executed by the president and the minister. I am just a subordinate.

Cavallo Reviews Measures To Be Announced by Menem

PY2204025894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2004 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 21 Apr (NA)—During today's cabinet meeting in which he reviewed the measures to be implemented to foster production nationwide, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo pointed out the need to "expedite" the credits granted by the Argentine National Bank, especially those for regional producers.

Cavallo's idea is to buttress regional economies so they will be able to compete with good-quality products both domestically and on the international market.

The package of measures will be announced by President Carlos Menem on 1 May during the opening of a new session of Congress.

According to what official spokesmen reported after the cabinet meeting, the trade balance deficit also was discussed at the meeting. In order to reduce it, Cavallo reportedly confirmed the decision to promote import restrictions and an export drive.

In light of the fact that agroindustries and agricultural production primary will play a central role in boosting trade, new measures to aid regional economies will reportedly be implemented and others already under way will be enhanced.

The economy minister reportedly explained to the president and his colleagues that one should bear in mind that of the $13,040 [figure as received] exported last year, more than $8,200 [figure as received]—approximately 60 percent—corresponded to primary commodities and manufactured products from the agriculture and livestock sector.

The plan for industry, which is fundamentally geared to providing aid to small- and medium-scale enterprises (PyMEs), will include financial aid through soft loans granted by the BICE [Bank of Investment and Foreign Trade] and the Argentine National Bank, a program for the development of suppliers—the so-called productive areas, and the support program for the reorganization of the PyMEs. [passage omitted]

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY2104150594

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities monitored through 21 April.

The Labor Ministry reported today that during 1993, unemployment insurance was provided to five times more individuals than during the previous year. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS 2048 GMT 19 Apr 94)

The Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers, ADEFA, reported today that the production of motor vehicles during March 1994 totalled 33,758 units, a 300 percent increase with respect to February of this year and a 30 percent increase with respect to March 1993. ADEFA also reported that total production during the first quarter of 1994 was 34 percent higher than during the first quarter of 1993, and that the total number of

units exported during the period increased by 121 percent with respect to the same period of last year. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Apr 94)

Bolivia

Foreign Minister Attending Rio Group Meeting

PY2104214994 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar is currently in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he is attending the Rio Group Foreign Ministers meeting. Foreign Minister Aranibar will tomorrow inform his Rio Group and EU colleagues about Latin America's position on the environment and regional proposals on sustainable development.

Foreign Minister Aranibar Ends Visit to Belgium

PY2104202794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1331 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Brussels, 20 Apr (EFE)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar Quiroga said here today that international tours "enables the government to open possibilities but it is up to the private sector to follow them up."

Aranibar Quiroga today ends his three-day visit to the Belgian capital. Aranibar met with high-ranking European Commission [EC] officials and held bilateral talks with Belgian ministers and public and private sector representatives.

Aranibar held a news conference. He said that during his meetings with EC Vice President Manuel Marin and Juan Prat, the North-South relations general director, they reviewed the three-year EU program with Bolivia.

The program will be signed in May during Juan Prat's visit to La Paz. Aranibar said the program "represents an effort to achieve an encompassing vision" to "optimize our cooperation."

The basic guidelines of future EC cooperation with Bolivia include the struggle against poverty, state modernization, environmental problems, sustainable development, and regional integration.

The minister insisted on the importance of renewing and extending the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) with the Andean Pact. "There is a commitment to extend and broaden it. That is a reason for our presence here," Aranibar said.

The Bolivian minister said Bolivia has taken little advantage of the GSP. He said he wants "to make our agroindustrial trade to be more dynamic."

During his meetings with Belgian authorities he talked about "our basic government plans to maintain democratic and economic stability" and "the search for economic growth with social democracy."

"We want peaceful solutions for all Bolivian society's problems," said Aranibar after receiving Belgium's guarantee "to continue its cooperation effort, despite the economic difficulties facing European countries."

Aranibar said that in the next few months a small evaluating team will travel to Bolivia to review the work of the Mixed Commission which controls cooperation.

The minister said his meeting with his Belgian counterpart Willy Claes included "a very important exchange of information on our government's basic plans" and on the Bolivian offer to become "the point of contact and integration bridge with everyone in Latin America."

Aranibar said: "We support American hemispheric integration" and NAFTA (signed between Mexico, the United States, and Canada).

Aranibar travelled to Belgium with a small entrepreneurial mission. During meetings with Belgian entrepreneurs he insisted that the areas of oil, energy, telecommunications, airlines, and steel mills "offer opportunities to foreign investors. The idea has been received with a lot of interest here."

"We seek trade more than cooperation," Aranibar said. The Bolivian minister handed Willy Claes an official invitation for Belgian King Albert II, asking him to visit Bolivia "whenever he deems it convenient."

Aranibar Quiroga will travel to Sao Paulo on 21 April to participate in the Rio Group meeting with the European Unity (EU). He will then visit Germany and Spain.

Committee Questions Former Antinarcotics Chief

PY2104173894 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Former Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico, Colonel Enrique Fernandez [former commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force, FELCN, in La Paz], and General Luis Anez [former FELCN commander] testified today before the Constitutional Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. We have a report from Amalia Pando on the testimony of Gonzalo Torrico.

[Begin recording] [Torrico, in progress] ...as far as I can remember about Isaac Chavarria, I did not get any information. I don't exactly remember how many prosecutors I had.

[Pando] Gonzalo Torrico, who headed the struggle against drug trafficking during the four years of [former President] Jaime Paz Zamora's administration, has showed his memory is not as good as that of former dictator Luis Garcia Meza. Torrico, who was an ADN

[National Democratic Action] senator in 1988 when another ADN senator published the narcophoto showing Paz Zamora with alleged drug trafficker Isaac Chavarria. He said he never told President Paz Zamora or Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco that Isaac Chavarria, who was shown in the picture with Paz Zamora, was the most wanted drug trafficker in Bolivia at that time.

[Torrico] Mr. President, I have clearly stated that the reception of the drug reports was not an exclusive privilege of the Social Defense Under Secretariat or the Interior Ministry: The reports went to both organizations. My relationship with the president was via the interior minister. When I met with the minister we did not talk about specific issues, we talked about overall policies.

[Deputy Juan del Granado] Did you not consider it necessary to tell the interior minister about this case in particular? Did you ever think of doing that? This is what I want to know.

[Torrico] No, because that kind of relationship did not exist.

[del Granado] Thank you.

[Pando] Between 1989 and 1991 Chavarria rose in the ranking of the most wanted drug traffickers. He first appeared on a list of the 28 most wanted traffickers, which was the first list Gonzalo Torrico saw. Some months later Chavarria rose to ninth place.

[Unidentified deputy] Then a list of the nine most wanted drug traffickers was publicly released. Not only was the list released, it is explained how it was established. The report says: As a result of thorough intelligence analysis and a comparison study of the people suspected by the FELCN, the Social Defense Under Secretariat—which was your organization Mr. Torrico—and the DEA, a list of nine drug traffickers considered the national kingpins was compiled. This list shows Isaac Chavarria in first place.

[Pando] In November 1991, the list was reduced to just the three most wanted drug traffickers. The deadline for repented drug traffickers to surrender had passed and the FELCN commander in Santa Cruz said that just three kingpins did not take advantage of the repentance law. The most important of the three was Isaac Chavarria. Despite all this evidence, Gonzalo Torrico never concerned himself with Chavarria's arrest.

[Torrico] I remember, let me reiterate, I remember Chavarria's name just as I remember the name Techo de Paja from the reports. But when I saw a list, I had no interest in any particular name because that was not my job. I already clearly pointed out that there was a specialized organization to do that.

[Pando] It was also established that in 1990 an ex-member of the FELCN, Retamozo, was murdered after formally accusing Isaac Chavarria.

[Unidentified deputy] The prosecutor was the official who interrogated Eduardo Adolfo Retamozo Rosas on 26 September 1990. Retamozo, a former FELCN official, was then released, then he was arrested, and then murdered. The case of Eduardo Adolfo Retamozo was well-known. The interrogation was handled by a prosecutor who worked for you, or who was assigned to the Social Defense Under Secretariat. Did this prosecutor—who worked for you—not inform you in detail, at least after Retamozo was shot dead, about his testimony.

[Torrico] Mr. President, prosecutors were not obliged to report to me directly or through their coordinators of these events.

[Pando] According to Torrico, he knew Isaac Chavarria was a wanted drug trafficker. He did not order his arrest because that is the task of the FELCN intelligence. He did not warn the president because it was not his duty and because the reports from the FELCN with the list of the most wanted drug traffickers were also sent to Minister Capobianco. Let us recall that, before this committee, Capobianco has denied being informed about links between Chavarria and drug trafficking. In the last part of his testimony, Torrico clarified that he did not work for the DEA or receive money from the U.S. Embassy. He also reiterated that no one ever asked him to protect Chavarria, neither Jaime Paz Zamora or Guillermo Capobianco. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Popular Participation Law Annoys Labor Federation

PY2104214894 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpts] [Begin relay] [Mario Espinoza, identified by screen caption] President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada on 20 April promulgated the Popular Participation Law, one of the bases of his administration as he himself has repeatedly explained to Bolivian citizens.

When promulgating the law, President Sanchez de Lozada said: With the promulgation of the Capitalization [as heard] Law we are closing a chapter in the government reorganization process.

The Chamber of Deputies approved the law on 20 April, including the amendments introduced by the Senate. The Chamber of Deputies also is planning to discuss the national budget during the congressional term that is about to expire. [end relay] [passage omitted]

As we reported a few minutes ago, labor unions are indignant over the approval and promulgation of the Popular Participation Law.

[Begin relay] [Cathia Rodriguez, identified by screen caption] Union leaders allege that the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] cannot be happy with a Popular Participation Law that was drafted and approved

without popular participation. According to union leaders, the law's main objective is to abolish traditional union organizations.

[First unidentified union leader] Until today, COB, labor unions, federations, and confederations of different sectors have been the mediators between civilian society and the government. Today, the government wants to take this role away from the COB. This is why the Popular Participation Law does not discuss the concept (?of grass-roots) organizations [words indistinct]. They are being virtually disavowed.

[Second unidentified union leader] Although laws are being approved, we have to see whether they will be enforced in Bolivia.

[Rodriguez] Does COB believe it can prevent their enforcement?

[Union leader] We believe we represent those who have been marginalized from the drafting of these laws. Therefore, those who have been marginalized will be following this issue very closely.

[Rodriguez] The Popular Participation Law was approved on 20 April and the national budget will be approved soon. The union leaders are aware that once the budget is approved, salary negotiations will end then and there with the imposition of an 8 percent salary increase offered by the government. However, they assert they will continue fasting until the government's will is broken.

Nationwide, there are already 90 union groups that are fasting and 738 people on strike. The group that has been fasting the longest is in La Paz. The group has been fasting for 18 days. At the national level, 40 people on a fast are in serious health.

Meanwhile, the demonstrations continue. This week retail shop workers staged two protest demonstrations. COB has announced that tomorrow there will be a demonstration staged by all labor unions. In La Paz, the demonstration is scheduled for 1500 in San Francisco Plaza. [end relay]

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY2104222494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities monitored through 21 April.

The National Statistics Institute reported that the Bolivian trade balance registered a $445.2 million deficit in 1993 with exports at $804.1 million and imports at $1.2493 billion, a 10.5 percent increase compared with 1992. Exports of nontraditional products registered the highest increase with 27.6 percent. Hydrocarbon exports dropped 27 percent compared with 1992. (La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 7 Apr 94 p B5)

The Superintendency of Banks reported that banks' deposits totalled $2.0761 billion through 31 March, of which $1.9387 billion came from the private sector and $137.4 million from the public sector. (La Paz HOY in Spanish 7 Apr 94 Economic Section p 17)

The Bolivian Central Bank reported that the fiscal deficit was $150 million in the year's first three months, a drop of 50 percent compared with the same period in 1992, when it was $305 million. International reserves went from $223.7 million in the first three months of 1993 to $368.6 million in the same period this year, an increase of 64.8 percent in 12 months. (La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 8 Apr 94 Economic Section p B5)

Brazil

Franco Expresses Interest in Joining NAFTA

PY2104153294 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 94 pp 1,5

[Article by Celso Pinto]

[Text] Nearly three weeks ago President Itamar Franco wrote to the three other presidents of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries; that is, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, for the first time officially and unequivocally informing them that Brazil wants to negotiate membership of NAFTA.

According to what this newspaper could verify from a qualified Foreign Ministry source, the letter states that Brazil wants to begin negotiations with the "NAFTA members." The letter suggests that the negotiation mechanism should not involve each country individually but rather Mercosur as a whole.

The Brazilian initiative is part of a diplomatic chess game involving several simultaneous moves. Brazil's two priorities in the field of Latin American trade are to consolidate Mercosur, and its recent proposal to create a broader free trade zone. This proposal, which is still in the investigative stage, may become official by the middle of this year.

Argentina, the main Mercosur partner, has given clear signals that it would like to join NAFTA without having expressed, so far, its wish to leave Mercosur. Argentina really hopes its name will be on the list of countries that may join NAFTA in the long term. In turn, NAFTA will release by July the names of the candidates that may join in the short term.

So far Brazil has officially maintained a somewhat reticent attitude regarding NAFTA, but Itamar's letter dissipates any doubts on that subject.

The letter clearly establishes that Brazil will only agree to negotiate its membership of NAFTA collectively through Mercosur. The reason is obvious. If one country, let us say Argentina, unilaterally negotiates its membership of NAFTA—which implies reducing trade tariffs

below the levels provided for by Mercosur—it would harm the interests of its Mercosur partners in specific markets.

The negotiation model suggested by Brazil is similar to the one used in the "Bush Initiative," the so-called "4 + 1" (the four Mercosur countries plus the United States), or the "4 + 3," which foresaw the four Mercosur countries plus the three NAFTA partners (including Mexico and Canada).

In his letter to the Mercosur presidents, President Itamar Franco reasserts the priority and the importance of Mercosur and explains that the Brazilian initiative to create a Latin American free trade zone (known so far as SAFTA [South American Free Trade Area] is compatible with Mercosur. Franco's letter expresses Brazil's satisfaction with the results of the recent meeting of Mercosur representatives in Buenos Aires to discuss the SAFTA.

When Brazil launched the SAFTA proposal a few months ago, some uncertainties remained. For example, it is known that Uruguay harbors fears that Argentina—under the pretext of Brazil's interest in expanding the free trade zone—may abandon Mercosur or unilaterally join NAFTA.

From what we have been able to learn, Argentina has already discreetly consulted Brazil and mentioned their interest in being in the list of candidates to join NAFTA. Until now, Brazil had not clearly answered these soundings. Itamar's letter is the first direct and unequivocal approach to the subject.

Brazil, of course, would not like to see Argentina join NAFTA by itself. According to Brazilian diplomacy, however, it is not totally clear how far the Argentines really want to go regarding NAFTA. The Brazilian Government believes Argentina is interested in seeing its name on the list of candidates to join NAFTA in the long term just for prestige and to provoke a beneficial repercussion in the international financial markets. But Brasilia believes that Argentina is in no hurry to join NAFTA. On a short term basis, a broad reduction of trade tariffs could worsen the already worrisome Argentine negative trade balance.

None of the three countries has officially replied yet to Itamar's letter. It is known, however, that Argentina was surprised by the Brazilian initiative.

But what does Brazil want from SAFTA? To maximize the Latin American free trade zone and to eliminate trade barriers among all countries without harming the greater integration process foreseen by Mercosur.

Mercosur is a free trade zone where 85 percent of trade tariffs have already been harmonized. Of the remaining 15 percent, 5 percent will be harmonized over a five-year period, and 10 percent over a 10 year period. But Mercosur goes even further. It encourages customs unity with common external tariffs and policy. In the final stage it foresees a common market with freedom of movement for production factors like in the European Unity (EU).

In the case of SAFTA, Brazil envisages a free trade agreement in which a general and linear reduction of trade tariffs over a certain period of time will be negotiated.

More sensitive exports could be handled individually. In each specific negotiation within the SAFTA, each Mercosur partner could indicate their specific fields of interest and negotiate on that basis.

Meanwhile, Brazil has tried to sell the idea that Mercosur will not clash with SAFTA. It has simultaneously made the first contacts with possible candidates to join SAFTA, like Venezuela and Chile. The official proposal will nonetheless be known by mid year.

The fact that SAFTA agreements will not include discussions on a common external tariff will facilitate rapprochement with certain countries—like Chile—with very low trade tariffs and which would be reluctant to raise them for certain products just to meet the tariff level of Mercosur. On the other hand, it will be necessary to create firm and clear rules on the origin of products to avoid triangular operations.

Brazil's priorities are to fight for Mercosur and for SAFTA, but the reality of the NAFTA has forced Brazil to make a definition regarding this subject. Now that the decision has been made, the consequences are unequivocal.

As the Itamaraty source said, if Mercosur's negotiations with NAFTA prospers, Brazil will fight to ensure its success.

Uruguayan Official Warns Against Trade Barriers

PY2204020294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2242 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Eventual restrictions on the flow of trade may violate the recent GATT pacts and become a threat to the economic and political stability of Latin America, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu said today.

The Uruguayan foreign minister arrived today in Sao Paulo to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers from the Rio Group and EU that will begin tomorrow at the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) headquarters.

Abreu told EFE that the Latin American countries should prevent the possible creation of trade barriers, and that the dialogue with the EU should be preserved because the two blocs complement each other.

Regarding the permanent dialogue maintained with the EU since 1990, the Uruguayan foreign minister, who participated in the GATT Uruguay Round, said Latin America "has the duty of participating in the talks free of tutelage and not allowing trade protectionism."

He said the eventual conditioning of trade—to environment, social, and political conditions—might represent

"an excuse" by the developed countries to impose masked protectionist measures.

The international trade opening promoted by the GATT Uruguay Round pacts signed last week in Marrakech will represent one of the greatest opportunities for economic growth and prosperity, said Abreu.

The Latin American countries have implemented structural economic adjustments that have implied social and political costs, so therefore they demand compliance with what was agreed upon in GATT to be able to compete and attain the benefits of the richer countries, he added.

Although the GATT agreements have strengthened the multilateral trade system, Abreu said, they still are "not enough" to open the developed countries' markets.

The Uruguayan foreign minister added that the trade tariff reduction determined by the GATT agreements will be 40 percent, and progress has been attained in the fields of agricultural goods, textiles, industrial property, and services.

He said environmental preservation, respect for human rights, and guarantees for workers are concerns of every single nation, but he does not agree with associating them with the problems of multilateral trade.

The foreign ministers and representatives of the 13 Rio Group governments and the 12 EU governments tomorrow will examine a 10-page draft joint declaration that evaluates mutual relations and that must be signed at the end of the meeting on 23 April.

The Latin American foreign ministers also will meet separately on 23 April to establish a consensus of their positions regarding the next continental summit organized by U.S. President Bill Clinton, which will take place at the beginning of December in Miami.

Ecuador's Paredes Arrives for Rio Group

PY2204020894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2339 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Sao Paulo, 21 Apr (EFE)—Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes stated here today that the possibility of imposing environmental, social, or political conditions on trade could represent a new form of protectionism.

Paredes said the possible implementation of disguised forms of protectionism would be dangerous and counterproductive to international trade. Thus, he underscored the significance of strictly complying with the recently concluded GATT agreements.

Paredes arrived here today to attend the fourth institutional meeting of foreign ministers from the Rio Group and the EU, which will be held on 22-23 April at the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) building.

Paredes said the developing nations must use their resources responsibly based on their sovereign rights, but conforming to the terms of free trade promoted by the GATT Uruguay Round.

Paredes added that the progress of Latin American countries will depend on the freedom with which they can participate in international markets, especially in Europe.

Commenting on trade conditions, Paredes said that all nations, irrespective of their degree of development, are experiencing environmental and social difficulties and cited as an example the contamination of cities in developed countries.

Paredes noted that today there is greater environmental awareness, even though millions of people in developing countries still have to use firewood to survive because they have no other way of producing energy.

Paredes said he opposes the imposition of conditions on trade. He noted, however, that all countries should act more responsibly in preserving the environment and promoting respect for human rights.

Paredes added: "There are no political prisoners in Ecuador. We have environmental shortcomings, but we are aware that we need to approve some laws in this respect."

He added that his country has implemented an economic opening, lowered tariff rates, attracted foreign investments, and succeeded in building an atmosphere of confidence among its international partners, despite "the social and economic sacrifices" it has suffered as a result of these changes.

Paredes also announced that Ecuador soon plans to join GATT, which will be replaced in the next few years by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Ecuador, along with Brazil and Chile, make up the "troika" of the Rio Group, the main Latin American forum and the EU's counterpart in the region.

Angolan President Arrives in Salvador

PY2104234494 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Apr 94 p A6

[From the "Estadao" column]

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos arrived in Brazil on 20 April. He disembarked in Salvador, Bahia, with a 22-person retinue—including his wife, child, a launderer, a tutor, and bodyguards—to spend more than 10 days in the country. He has not scheduled any official activity.

Drug-Numbers Game Link Confirmed in 1982 Report

PY2204021694 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] A secret military document could be the key to new disclosures for the prosecutors investigating the corruption scheme set up by the numbers game kingpins.

The first probe into the numbers game-drug trafficking link was conducted in 1982 by the Military Police intelligence service itself. The Army and the now-defunct National Intelligence Service, SNI, received copies of the report.

It was in a meeting held then that the numbers game leaders decided to invest in drug trafficking because they considered it a promising business. The numbers game kingpins then allied themselves with drug trafficker Antonio Jose Nicolao, known as Toninho Turco, who started to serve as a liaison between the numbers game and the drug trade.

General Newton Cerqueira, who was commander of the Military Police [PM] at that time, confirmed the report's existence:

[Begin Cerqueira recording] PM officers, who at that time helped us considerably in that specialized sector, drafted documents and I became firmly convinced that there was a close connection between the numbers game bankers and the drug trade. [end recording]

The prosecutors want to compare the information contained in that report with both the documents seized from Toninho Turco's house during the Mosaic Operation and with the accounting books and diskettes seized recently from the numbers game operations center. They believe that by comparing all these documents, they will be able to prove for the first time the numbers game kingpins' involvement in the drug trade in Rio de Janeiro.

The prosecutors do not know, however, that that report—which they describe as being highly significant—has disappeared from the PM intelligence service's files.

Another Deputy Stripped of Political Rights

PY2204002094 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] By 329 votes in favor and 26 against, the Chamber of Deputies has stripped Deputy Fabio Raunheitti (PTB-RJ) [Brazilian Labor Party-Rio de Janeiro] of his political rights for lack of congressional decorum. As a result, Raunheitti cannot run for election for three years. Alternate Deputy Anibal Teixeira (Popular Party-Minas Gerais) has been acquitted.

Now that Raunheitti has been stripped of his political rights, the number of deputies punished on Budget Congressional Investigating Committee charges totals three. Last week Deputy Carlos Benevides (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Ceara) and alternate Feres Nader (PTB-RJ) also were stripped of their political rights.

Editorial Views Political Parties' 'Crisis'

PY2104233494 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Apr 94 p A3

[Editorial: "Political Parties' System in Crisis" from the "Notes and Information" page]

[Text] News on alliances the presidential candidates have been trying to make to ensure a comfortable position at the end of the second round shows the fragility of the Brazilian political party system. We are not referring to those in the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party [PMDB] who seek to protect their political image and publicly disassociate themselves from Mr. Orestes Quercia. We are talking about the political parties in general. A detailed analysis of what has occurred since the presidential candidates have been decided would show that the Brazilian political parties still have not succeeded in becoming "national organizations."

Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso is not the only one trying to convince a reasonable number of fellow party members to accept an alliance with the Liberal Front Party [PFL], the Progressive Party [PP], and the Brazilian Labor Party [PTB]. Mr. Luis Inacio Lula da Silva also is having difficulty convincing his most radical fellow party members in the various states of the federation that elections are different from ideological preaching.

One of the reasons for this problem is the fact that since 1959 there have been no general elections in Brazil. During this long period since the last time Brazilians simultaneously elected a president, governors, senators, federal deputies, and state deputies, the people forgot—and the authoritarian blows dealt to the party system compounded their loss of memory—how to make combinations so Party A supports Party B's candidate for the presidency of the Republic or receives support from Party C for its gubernatorial candidate, particularly if we consider that C is an adversary of B and we want to support C. This carousel becomes more complicated for two reasons: One, because the elections will be in two rounds; the other because the presidential candidate may help or hinder the election of senators and deputies, as well as state governors. These are the reasons for the difficulties being faced by the candidates. According to the aforementioned A, B, and C parties' example, those who run for deputy (state or federal deputies, if we take into consideration the habit of voting for two sorts of deputies at the same time ["dobradinha"]), probably will have no sponsors. As the election is in two rounds, if one party's gubernatorial candidate loses the election despite being supported by a presidential candidate who will run in the second round, how will the deputy candidates' volunteer campaign workers behave? What will be the position of the candidate who wins in the first round

although being an adversary of the presidential candidate who will participate in the second round?

The reader may believe this issue to be of little importance. For the parties, however, it is extremely important and for those who run for governors, deputies, or senators it may be as important as a miracle. This is why several wanted to have gubernatorial elections in only one round: Everything would have become easier and state alliances would have been made at will. Perhaps as a result of the way things stand now, it is being reported that certain gubernatorial candidates have made accords allowing them to participate in electoral rallies of opposing parties' presidential candidates and make propaganda for their own candidate.

The situation would have been comical if it did not involve an institutional tragedy. The PSDB federal bloc has been facing an internal crisis for days because it does not agree with the way Sen. Fernando Henrique Cardoso is conducting negotiations to ensure support from the PFL, which is a declared enemy of some federal bloc members. Lula has been forcing the radical members of his party to accept coalitions in their states to which they do not agree. And (moral problems aside) the PMDB is risking disintegration if Orestes Quercia is its presidential candidate. This would force the party to support other presidential candidates in the states.

The problem of having national party guidelines different from guidelines at the state level is not new. It was not created by the military (as a matter of fact, in the two-party regime there was no chance that the Arena-1 [National Renewal Alliance-1] party would form a coalition with MDB-2 [Brazilian Democratic Movement-2] in any county), or by the party system created in 1985. This drama was experienced in the 1945-1964 democratic period. Wasn't the PSD [Democratic Social Party] candidate despicably betrayed in 1950 when a large portion of the party members vote for Getulio Vargas? Didn't Adhemar de Barros' PSP [Progressive Social Party] make regional alliances with the UDN [National Democratic Union] that fought deadly matches against it in Sao Paulo, while the national board followed the dispute from a distance? The thing is that the number of voters was smaller then and the interests at stake were not as defined and antagonistic, and national issues (particularly opposition to Vargas) prevailed over local interests. Nowadays the opposite occurs: Although Lula's candidacy makes some fear for Brazil's modernized future, everything indicates that local interests and personal ambitions are beginning to prevail. This is a direct consequence of the federal government's crisis and the lack of a really national political leadership.

Whatever the reason is, one thing is true: If this situation becomes a reality, the political party system is doomed and the essence of the representative system too.

Industrial Property Bill Includes Changes

PY2104130594 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 94 p 14

[Report by Lidia Reboucas in Sao Paulo]

[Text] Among the major changes introduced by the industrial property draft law, which has already been approved by the Chamber of Deputies and is now being discussed in the Senate, is the possibility of patenting microorganisms themselves, and not just genetic engineering processes. The draft law also removes restrictions for patenting chemicals as well as pharmaceutical and food items and processes.

These changes were announced by Jose Roberto Gusmao, president of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), who met yesterday with Senator Jose Richa, the rapporteur of the draft law, who has been hospitalized at the Heart Institute (Incor) of Sao Paulo. Another major change deals with the issue of temporary patents (pipelines) [preceding word in English]: It will be possible to register patents that were filed or granted abroad, and these will be valid in Brazil if they have not yet been marketed in any of the countries involved.

The changes also affect the registration of trademarks, which will now be granted for three-dimensional shapes, such as that of a bottle.

Gusmao said: "The new version of the law will be in complete accordance in keeping with the decisions approved last week at the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT."

Chile

Czech Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

PY2104203094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0146 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Santiago, 20 Apr (EFE)—Chilean President Eduardo Frei today compared the return to democracy in Chile and the Czech Republic—which took place simultaneously and in a civilized manner, free of any bloodshed.

Frei said this during a dinner party to fete Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus who arrived from Buenos Aires today for a three-day official visit to Chile.

Frei said that the Chilean and Czech Governments "uphold broad respect for human rights and fully enforce the multiparty system."

The Chilean chief of state pointed out that "both countries enjoy a similar degree of development and uphold the effectiveness of an open international trade which is not discriminatory. They are against restrictions that prevent it from being clear."

Frei added: "In the four years since March 1990, Chile and the Czech Republic have come closer on several issues and have made efforts to build solid and fruitful relations."

Chile and the former Czechoslovakia resumed diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level on 11 March 1990, when Patricio Aylwin's civilian administration assumed power, ending almost 17 years of General Augusto Pinochet's military regime.

Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus will meet with Chilean public and private sector officials and will end his visit to Santiago on 22 April with the signing of a broad cooperation agreement in the areas of culture, education, and science.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY2104222094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities monitored through 21 April.

Bilateral trade between Chile and South Korea rose from $100 million in 1985 to more than $750 million in 1993. This is equivalent to 4 percent of Chilean foreign trade. The trade balance with this country registered a $70 million surplus with exports at $413 million and imports at $343 million. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 31 Mar 94 p 25)

Industrial Development Association President Pedro Lizana on 30 March reported that industry grew 4.8 percent in the year's first two months compared with the same period in 1993, when it increased 9.2 percent. Leather products, except shoes, registered the highest increase with 34.6 percent: furniture and accessories, 28.7 percent; and nonelectrical machinery, 28.7 percent. (Santiago LA TERCERA in Spanish 31 Mar 94 p 3)

Benedito Carlos de Padua, Real Bank Foreign Trade Department director, said Brazilian imports from Chile between 1991 and 1993 dropped from $528 million to $407 million, while imports from the Common Market of the South, Mercosur, member countries totalled $3.334 billion last year, an increase of 47 percent. De Padua said Mercosur became a very efficient channel for medium and small Brazilian enterprises. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Apr 94 p B5)

The Concon Oil Refinery reported that internal oil production dropped 40 percent from 1988 to 1993, and domestic consumption rose 45 percent in the same period. Domestic production accounts for only 9 percent. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 6 Apr Economic Section p 8)

The National Statistics Institute on 6 April reported that the unemployment rate increased 5.1 percent from December 1993 to February 1994, 0.8 percent higher than the December 1992-February 1993 period. The labor force totalled 5,282,690, an increase of 4.5 percent compared with the same period last year. Employed people totalled 5,012,470, an increase of 3.5 percent. This means the number of jobs rose by 170,460. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Apr 94 p B3)

The Central Bank on 7 April reported that the trade balance registered a $24 million surplus in the first half of March, with exports at $486.4 million and imports at $462.4 million, a drop of 75.6 percent compared with the same period in 1993. The cumulative surplus in 1994 rose to $92.6 million, compared with the $141.2 million deficit registered last year. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 8 Apr 94 Economic Section p 4)

Central Bank net reserves increased $149 million in March, of which $72 million came from the trade balance surplus. The cumulative reserves through 31 March totalled $10.431 billion. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 8 Apr 94 p 10)

Economy Minister Alvaro Garcia reported that foreign investment totalled $804 million in the year's first three months, an increase of 19 percent compared with the same period in 1993. The major investment was in mining with $271 million. (Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Apr 94)

Peru

Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina Interviewed

PY2104235094 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Apr 94 Political Section P6

["Exclusive" interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez in Lima on 10 April]

[Text] [LA REPUBLICA] What results do you expect from this official visit you are paying to Peru?

[Robaina] Our visit to Peru is part of a tour of other Latin American countries where we will explain to our American brothers and the entire international community to what extent Cuba is determined to carry out its project, without straying from the historic path it has chosen, in this time of crisis.

The idea is to tell everyone what aspects of our revolution are not negotiable and what aspects of our socioeconomic program are. Our presence here is also our response to an international campaign against Cuba. It is our duty to break up this negative campaign.

[LA REPUBLICA] What are the aspects of socialist Cuba that can be negotiated? How do you think Cuba should adapt to the new international context that surrounds it?

[Robaina] This process will, precisely, allow a new type of relationship with the world. We haven't asked anybody for a correlation of political ideologies in order to establish an economic relationship, and this is where we will have to adapt to a completely new situation. In this

regard there are national interests that match the interests of foreign investors. What is a need for Cuba might be an investment opportunity for many and, modestly speaking, we also believe Cuba has a lot to offer the world.

[LA REPUBLICA] What guarantees and incentives does Cuba currently offer foreign capital?

[Robaina] Much is said about what Cuba can offer foreign investors and facts have proven that Cuba, definitely, has a lot to attract foreign investors. This is why we seek meetings, to negotiate and get more acquainted, because only thus will we be able to establish stable new rules. This is why we must point out that Cuba has opened its doors to foreign capital with legal and constitutional backing. This backing is clear and flexible enough to avoid any suspicion.

[LA REPUBLICA] What Cuban sectors are more attractive to foreign capital? What products does your country offer the international markets aside from sugar, of course?

[Robaina] We are taking very positive steps in the tourism field. There is also great potential in the iron and steel industry, in the construction sector. We also have a wide range of products in which the international market is interested such as nickel, oil, and the production and processing of citrus fruit.

[LA REPUBLICA] Is this new open door policy particularly directed to a certain market?

[Robaina] The opening to the international market is a priority issue for Cuba, but within this framework, we want to give even greater preference to Latin American investors.

[LA REPUBLICA] How can potential foreign investors be certain they will enjoy full guarantees in Cuba?

[Robaina] Those investors from various parts of the world who already are investing in Cuba can say that better than us because it is a fact. We have investors from Spain, Canada, Italy, France, and also from Latin American countries such as Colombia, Argentina, Brazil. They are not only looking into the possibilities of investing but already have invested in our country, and our relationship with them is excellent.

[LA REPUBLICA] This means that the future of foreign investments in Cuba is quite promising.

[Robaina] It should be pointed out that Cuba's relationship with foreign investors is not as smooth and easy as in other countries. It must be taken into account that we are promoting this opening with great opposition. In order to attract foreign investors we have not only had to grant them a legal framework that would give them guarantees, but we also have had to be quite bold and brave. It is no secret that whoever tries to make deals with Cuba is subject to great pressure. If the new investors want legal guarantees, they already have them. Moreover, there is the guarantee of the facts, there is the testimony of those already investing in Cuba.

[LA REPUBLICA] What are the expectations regarding Cuba's relationship with Peru in this new phase?

[Robaina] In all our commercial relationships, Cuba does not go around the world only saying what it needs. We, modestly, also offer what could be of help to friendly countries. In sum, I believe that in Peru's case we have a lot to offer in the sugar industry; we have a tourism market that may interest many investors; we have significant technological development in the medical and paramedical fields, in the production of medical equipment, important developments in the biotechnology field; we also have important experience in the sports field. We hope to increase our relationship with Peru in the commercial and investments fields, which will, in turn, strengthen our traditional historic and cultural ties.

[LA REPUBLICA] Is the U.S. commercial blockade imposed more than 30 years ago the only obstacle to Cuba's new political opening being fully successful in the near future?

[Robaina] We have never said that the blockade is the only cause of our problems. The problems Cuba has experienced lately are the combination of a series of factors but, definitely, the blockade is the greatest obstacle. Now, more than ever in this crucial phase, we have to bear a tremendous pressure exerted not only directly against Cuba but also against whoever deals with or invests in Cuba.

[LA REPUBLICA] Is tourism the field in which Cuba has attracted the most foreign investment?

[Robaina] Let us talk about priorities. Tourism is a market with lots of possibilities for Cuba and important steps in this area have been taken. Cuba's climate is very attractive to any tourist in the world. This is why we have given tourism the same level of development as other very promising fields for foreign investors. However, we should bear in mind that we have resorted to tourism out of need, due to the difficulties Cuba is facing. But it is no secret to anybody that, aside from the capital, tourism in countries such as ours have a very high political and social cost.

[LA REPUBLICA] Does this mean that tourism for Cuba represents more problems than solutions?

[Robaina] No. That is not so. If we have promoted tourism in Cuba it is because we have no alternatives at this very difficult moment. But, fortunately, tourism has developed at a time when the Cuban people have reached a cultural, technological, scientific, and political level that has allowed us to face the opening to the tourism industry in a suitable way. There is no doubt that tourism today is as important as any of our harvests.

[LA REPUBLICA] On the domestic front, how does the Cuban Government intend to face the black market's socio-economic problem?

[Robaina] The so-called black market exists; we do not deny nor try to conceal our problems. Everyone is aware that in times of crisis and in the midst of such adverse circumstances as the ones we are enduring, the surfacing of the black market is something "natural" from the economic viewpoint. The black market speculates with the peoples' needs. What we have to do about this and other social problems is to normalize life in Cuba, produce more to meet the peoples' needs. This challenge requires the implementation of very special measures that adjust to the new circumstances under which we live. This is the reason for the great nationwide debate to get everyone to participate in the decisionmaking on these new measures. These measures will be assessed and adopted by the National Assembly of the People's Government convened for 1 May.

Two Cooperation Agreements Signed

PY2104173994 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Apr 94 political section p A5

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez yesterday signed two agreements with Efrain Goldenberg Schreiber, the prime and foreign minister. One relates to customs cooperation between the National Customs Administration Superintendency (Sunad) and the Cuban General Customs Directorate. The other is a cooperation agreement on the struggle against drug trafficking.

Robaina said his country has signed similar documents with other countries.

Robaina met yesterday in private with his Peruvian counterpart. He said his country offers necessary legal guarantees for Peruvian businessmen to invest in Cuba.

He said: "There is communication and room for exchange. We want to talk about Cuba's real situation and we want to know the real situation in Peru."

Before meeting with Goldenberg, Robaina lectured to businessmen on what his country has to offer.

He said he will also explain what Cuba has to offer to the Peruvian foreign minister because he wants to strengthen bilateral commercial relations.

He added: "The most important issues are related to sugar, tourism, and medical, paramedical, scientific, biotechnological, and sports cooperation."

Lima Mayor Declares Fujimori 'Persona Non Grata'

PY2104192294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1951 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Lima, 20 Apr (EFE)—In a new chapter in the political clash between Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and Lima Mayor Ricardo Belmont, the municipality of Lima today declared the Peruvian president a "persona non grata."

The municipal council approved the declaration by a 30-5 vote, with five abstentions.

In its whereas clauses, the declaration points out that "citizen Alberto Fujimori" has damaged Lima by approving a law reducing municipal income by 40 percent, and claims that the president has refused to talk with the Lima mayor, instead meeting with imprisoned terrorist leaders.

The declaration thus hints at Fujimori's meeting with terrorist leader Osman Morote last week while inspecting the Yanamayo top security prison in Puno Department, on the Bolivian border.

The document declares "citizen Alberto Fujimori" to be a "persona non grata" in order to distinguish his position as president of the Republic, which according to the Peruvian Constitution "represents a symbol of the nation."

The hassle between Belmont and Fujimori began three months ago, when the government decided to redistribute the national municipal promotion tax in a more equitable manner in order to allocate more funds to the poorest municipalities.

This measure, however, involved a reduction in the funds allocated to the Lima municipality, which was also interpreted as a political maneuver aimed at preventing Belmont from becoming a possible presidential candidate in the 1995 general elections.

From the moment the measure was implemented, the Lima mayor has been openly and totally opposing the government, while Fujimori has been refusing to meet him as he feels the mayor must reorganize his tax administration to secure more funds.

Opposition: Antiterrorist Offensive Harms Civilians

PY2104192894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0548 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (EFE)—According to opposition legislator Roger Caceres [National Front of Workers and Peasants, FNTC, secretary general], at least 60 people have been killed in the offensive launched at the beginning of April by the Peruvian Army against Shining Path [SL] terrorists in the Huanuco Department jungle area.

Refusing to specify whether the dead were SL members or civilians, Caceres said he had recently visited the region, and charged that military forces are "harming the civilian population" with helicopter attacks.

Caceres said he had toured several areas in Huanuco's Leoncio Prado Province, where security forces are conducting the military operations.

The legislator, who is a member of the Democratic Constituent Congress (CCD) Human Rights Committee, said he has asked the CCD to summon Defense Minister

Victor Malca and Interior Minister Juan Briones to explain the situation in the region.

Caceres has also asked the CCD to summon Attorney General Blanca Nelida Colan.

In a communique issued 20 April the Defense Ministry denies that civilians are either being bombarded or attacked, and reports that the antiterrorist military operations were launched on 5 April.

Moreover, a communique issued by the National Coordinating Board of Human Rights reports "massive crimes against a defenseless civilian population" in districts on the left bank of the Huallaga River.

Citing settlers who have fled the region, the Coordinating Board reports that "armored helicopters are firing upon the civilian population, while military columns on land are torturing survivors, raping women, and burning down the peasants' huts."

Peruvian media reports state that bombardments have been carried out during the 15 days the operation has lasted.

The Lima newspaper "ONDA" reports that the Army "has launched an attack by air and by land" and that it is estimated that SL forces in the area total 500 men.

According to newspaper "ONDA," 70 SL members were killed, but the killing of civilians has been ruled out.

The Defense Ministry communique states that from 5 to 18 April, 14 terrorists were killed and 12 others arrested in clashes between military patrols and SL columns. The communique adds that three soldiers were injured.

It also states that the military operations "are being conducted without affecting local settlers."

President Alberto Fujimori has "categorically" denied any helicopter bombings.

Moreover, Coordinating Board Executive Secretary Rosa Mujica insists that civilians have been killed, and has requested that the Red Cross be allowed to visit the area.

Uruguay

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY2104150994

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities monitored through 21 April.

The Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, has granted Uruguay a $30 million loan to finance investments in social policies, health services, education, employment, and justice system modernization. The loan agreement was signed in Guadalajara, Mexico, by Economy and Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas and IDB President Enrique Iglesias. (Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Apr 94 p 1)

The General Taxation Directorate, DGI, has reported that tax collections during 1993 did not increase, despite all government and DGI efforts in that direction. The report says that between January and November 1993, Uruguayans paid $1.95 billion in taxes, while foreign trade contributed $157 million. (Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 11 Apr 94 p 9)

The Central Bank reported on 11 April that the trade balance deficit continued to grow during January 1994. Total exports during this month were close to $113 million, while imports amounted to nearly $189 million. During this month exports grew by 6.9 percent, while imports increased by almost 14 percent as compared to the figures for January 1993. The report notes, however, that the deficit is almost entirely covered by income from tourism and the entry of new capital. (Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 12 Apr 94 p 7)

Correction to Cuban Foreign Minister Interviewed

PY1904162194

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina Interviewed," published in the 18 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 53-57:

Page 53, column two, fourth paragraph, third sentence make read ...or relatives' help to obtain a profession. We do not...(rewording for clarity)